

Kane County Farmer



MISSION STATEMENT:

Enhance the quality of life for member families,
promote all aspects of agriculture
and advocate good stewardship of our land and resources.

VOL. 73 NO. 4 APRIL 2008

Local agriculture & community development 'Listening Session'

In 2007, the Illinois General Assembly enacted The Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Act. This Bill authorized Governor

Blagojevich to appoint a 32-member Task Force, charged with putting together a plan to enhance an efficient and fully

functioning Illinois local and organic, food and fiber system. Task Force recommendations will be considered by the Illinois General Assembly in 2009. The Task Force is requesting your help in shaping the future of an Illinois-based farmer to consumer agricultural system.

Listening sessions are being held at various locations statewide to gather recommendations on production, infrastructure, public access, public education, and economic benefits that can be derived from Illinois farmers directly serving their neighbor's needs. If you have interest in helping to create the future of Illinois' local and organic food or the building of any part of a farm to neighbor agricultural system, your expertise is needed now.

We invite you to become a part of this exciting opportunity by meeting with Task Force members on Saturday, April 12, 2008 (9:00 a.m.-noon) at Kane County Farm Bureau and sharing your experiences, information, and opinions about

participating in (or desiring to participate in) an Illinois food and fiber network.

Some key questions for consideration are:

1. What opportunities in local food and fiber do you envision can be derived from Illinois' rich agricultural soils?

2. What obstacles do you see for your farm or business that hinder the development or expansion of farmer to consumer networks?

3. What do you as a consumer of Illinois agricultural products envision or want to see

changed?

4. What policy changes as a farmer, businessperson, or consumer would you like made at the state level to help you begin, increase the efficiency of, or complete your endeavor?

5. Are there legal impediments that now hinder you?

6. What else must be done to help you reach your goal of providing, distributing, or purchasing Illinois farm products?

If you want to participate in creating 21st Century farmer to consumer networks in Illinois that will satisfy consumer demand, create jobs, provide economic opportunity, and revitalize Illinois' rural communities, please join us at this listening session. For more information, contact Task Force Coordinators: Jim Braun 515-229-2679 jbraun2525@yahoo.com or Debbie Hillman 847/328-7175.



KCFB Government Affairs Committee Chair Steve Pitstick of Maple Park, Treasurer Joe White of Kaneville and Director Albert Lenkaitis of St. Charles traveled to Springfield in February to testify in support of legislation written to encourage local farmland protection efforts throughout the state. Since passage of Kane County's Farmland Protection Ordinance in 2001, many local farmers have become advocates for similar programs in other areas of Illinois. The experience of Pitstick and White on the County's Farmland Protection Commission, and service on a local planning commission and village board by White and Lenkaitis, respectively, ranks the trio among the most those most familiar in Illinois with the costs and benefits of public protection of farmland.

**Saturday, April 12
9:00 a.m.-noon
Kane County Farm
Bureau, St. Charles**

Save the date!

LivingWell Cancer Resource Center's 3rd Annual Bridge Walk is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2008, at Fabyan Park on the Island. This 5K Walk and 10-Step Celebration Walk along the beautiful Fox River is to help raise funds and awareness for LivingWell Cancer Resource Center. Proceeds from the Walk will be used to support the over 30 free programs and services LivingWell offers to cancer patients, cancer survivors and their loved ones. For anyone who is not walking the 5K because of the effects of cancer, there will be a special 10-Step Walk to symbolize that cancer does not define who they are. This special event allows all those who wish to take part in this special event to do so at their own comfort level.

When: Saturday, May 17,

2008, 8:30 am. Registration begins at 7:30 am.

Where: Fabyan Park – on the Island. Geneva.

For more information: If you are interested in participating on a team or starting your own team, please call Chrystal Maxwell at 630-262-1111 ext. 106. All community members are invited to participate.

Last year, the Bridge Walk had nearly 1,000 walkers and raised over \$183,000.00. Each participant had a story to share about how cancer affected their life and their loved ones. People walked in honor or in memory of their mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and children as well as friends, neighbors and coworkers. LivingWell participants and cancer survivors participating in the Bridge Walk ranged in age from 6 months old to 82 years young.

In advance of the third annual "Bridge Walk" on May 17, the Kane County Farm Bureau has announced that it will match the first \$1,000 in member contributions to this event designed to raise cancer awareness and funds for the LivingWell Cancer Resource Center of Geneva. In announcing the matching funds program, Farm Bureau President Bob Gehrke of Elgin stated: "Nearly all of our lives have been touched by a cancer diagnosis of a family member or friend. LivingWell offers the free education, counseling, information resources, support groups and wellness programs needed when going through this challenging time. As part of our mission to improve the quality of life for our member families, we're pleased to help assist this local not-for-profit in its important mission."

As the first of its kind complementary cancer care center in the Fox Valley, Living Well provides free programs and services to those living with a cancer diagnosis and their families. These include one on one counseling services; support groups for children, teenagers, and caregivers; special education presentations by experts in the field of oncology and other healthcare related fields; mind and body fitness, stress management, nutrition, and practical help. All programs and services provided at LivingWell Cancer Resource Center are free of charge.

In addition, the Center also hosts a comprehensive library, which is open to the public, with extensive information from the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society,

along with cancer specific books, video and audio tapes and books focused on the physical, medical, and emotional aspects of cancer. The center serves peoples in Kane, Kendall, DuPage and DeKalb counties. LivingWell is located at 1803 West State Street in Geneva.

The 5K Bridge Walk will be held Saturday, May 17 on the Island at Fabyan Park in Geneva. Additional information on participating in the walk appears in the "Save the date" story at left. To have your contribution to the Bridge Walk matched by the Kane County Farm Bureau, please make checks payable to Living Well Cancer Resource Center and send to Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by May 1.

FB to partner with members to benefit Cancer Resource Center

Premiums returned to Kane County farmers

COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services will soon mail \$73,494 to 192 COUNTRY Crop Hail policyholders in Kane County. The dividend is the result of a favorable 2007 Crop Hail year in Illinois. COUNTRY didn't have as many Crop Hail claims as expected, so it is returning 31 percent of the premium paid by its policyholders.

The sum of each check is based on the amount of Crop

Hail coverage the policyholder had on crops during the 2007 growing year. Statewide, nearly \$3.2 million is being returned to about 13,000 Crop Hail policyholders. COUNTRY has paid a dividend to Illinois farmers in nine of the last 12 years.

COUNTRY is the largest crop hail insurer in Illinois. The company provides crop hail protection on about 5.2 million acres of Illinois crops, valued at more than \$1 billion.

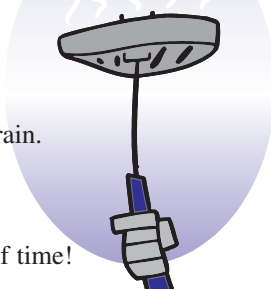
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 2**
Region 2 IFB at Ottawa
- April 2-4**
SPROUTS Reading Program
- April 3**
Board of Directors, 7:30 PM
- April 7-8**
IFB & Affiliates FFA Youth Conference, Springfield

All meetings are at the Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, unless otherwise noted.

Carne Asada

The special for April is Carne Asada, which translates literally to "roasted meat". This is a Tex-Mex skirt steak marinated in lime, onion, garlic, black pepper, etc. Each four pound box will contain eight 8 oz. portions, individually wrapped pieces. We are selling each delicious box for \$30.00 to M or A+ members, and \$31.00 to A members. This steak is best grilled with a squeeze of lime juice when it is done, then sliced thinly across the grain. Perfect for fajitas, burritos, tacos, as a steak sandwich or just plated with some grilled peppers and rice. Come get yours and be ready for Cinco de Mayo ahead of time!



FROM TRACTORS TO TRUCKS

By Steve Arnold, Manager



The popularity of our Tractor Raffle over the past two years, coupled with the success and growth of our Touch-A-Tractor program, has helped the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, our charitable and educational arm, expand both our Ag Literacy program offerings and our educational assistance. In the past two years the Foundation has provided nearly \$50,000 in tuition relief alone to local students, in the form of college scholarships. And another \$20,000 has already been approved for the 2008-09 school year.

The value of individual scholarships has increased by 50% in recent years in large part due to the success of these programs and participation in these activities and fund-raisers by you, our members. But now, in this 95th year of the Farm Bureau's existence (and the 22nd for our Foundation), the Foundation Board has decided to kick fundraising up a notch.

To celebrate the Farm Bureau's 95th Anniversary, call attention to one of our most valuable members benefits (GM's Private Offer for members), promote Illinois' leading farm commodity (corn) and raise funds for the next generation of agricultural leaders, the Foundation has approved the raffle of a brand new GM E-85 Flex Fuel pick-up truck. Tickets could go on sale as early as April with the drawing expected to coincide with our 95th Annual Meeting in September.

While the tractor raffle has been successful and is expected to return in 2009 after a one year hiatus, we hope that the raffle of a truck will appeal to our members' sensibilities, and pocketbooks. And we look forward to handing over the keys to a brand new truck at our Annual Meeting in September.

Details on the make, model, body style, features and options of the truck and the cost of tickets are being finalized as this is

being written. Ticket numbers will be limited. Look for the truck to make appearances at the County Fair and local festivals throughout the summer – but don't wait too long to get your ticket!

A new monthly feature appears on page 5 of this month's *Farmer*, our Farm Jargon Jumble. The idea was conceived in response to a recommendation from one of our Directors to, simply put, "give members a reason visit our website". (At this point, a little history might be in order: You see, back in November, after many months of procrastination on my part, we uploaded a new website at www.kanecfb.com. In defense of my procrastination, I'll state that the new site was worth the wait; for a not-for-profit to develop an interesting, informative and attractive website with content that changes regularly is, well ... a tall order.)

Anyway, our challenge, (now having a website worth visiting) became, how to get members to visit? Our answer is the Farm Jargon Jumble. Each month a word jumble will be run in the pages of the *Farmer* and on the website. The catch is that only one-half of the clues will be delivered by each medium. To

solve the "jumble", you have to read the *Farmer* and go online to visit the website.

Of course we're looking for more that increased website traffic and increased *Farmer* readership. We're hoping that you, as members, look around the website a bit, learn more about the benefits membership offers you, the programs we host and the industry we support. Who knows, maybe eventually you'll even bookmark the site ... or volunteer?

Lastly this month, in case you've missed it, I encourage you to read about our offer to match the first \$1,000 in contributions we receive to benefit the LivingWell Cancer Resource Center of Geneva. According to the Center, over 7,000 residents of the Fox Valley will be diagnosed with cancer this year. Half of all men and one third of all women will develop cancer in their lifetime.

We're pleased to be able to partner with LivingWell Cancer Resource Center and to be part of helping them meet the needs of those contending with a cancer diagnosis. We hope you'll join us and leverage your contribution.

Welcome new members

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

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

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

Illinois Corn Marketing Board election

Five seats are up for election this year on the Illinois Corn Marketing Board. Corn growers who would like to run for a three-year term on the board in districts 1, 4, 7, 10 and 13 now can start circulating nominating petitions.

"The Illinois Corn Marketing Board funds research and promotions that create markets for Illinois corn," Acting Agriculture Director Tom Jennings said. "I encourage producers who would like a voice in these important decisions to

pass a petition and gather the required number of signatures to get their name on the election ballot."

Petitions can be obtained from county extension offices and the Illinois Department of Agriculture. They must be returned by May 15.

Producers must be at least 18 years old, have produced and marketed corn during the 2007 commodity year, reside in the district to be represented and have submitted a petition by the filing deadline to become a can-

didate.

Election for the Illinois Corn Marketing Board will be held July 8. For more information, call the Illinois Department Agriculture at 217-782-6675 (TDD: 217-524-6858), or write to: Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Marketing and Promotion, P.O. Box 19281, State Fairgrounds, Springfield, Ill., 62794-9281.

District 1 includes the counties of Boone, McHenry, Lake, DeKalb, Kane, Cook, DuPage, Kendall and Will.

Preserve a piece of your farm's history

The Kane County Farm Bureau would like to introduce a new opportunity to farmers in Kane County. Our website, kanecfb.com, already features a few videos of local farms and farmers in action. We'd like to add more. Our goal is to build a "virtual library" of brief footage of tillage operations and farm chores on our website as an educational tool.

Throughout the spring and summer, Farm Bureau staff will be available on a limited basis to

come to your farm and film spring tillage, planting, haying, feeding, milking and other farm operations. However, only a limited number of each type of activity will be needed. Therefore our potential "library" will be built on a first-come, first-served basis for each type of activity, and only until we have ample footage of each activity.

In addition to adding a great educational tool to our website, your participation in this activi-

ty will provide a record for posterity in the form of a DVD of all footage shot on your farm provided to you free of charge. Like cherished family photos of barn raisings and threshing bees, future generations will appreciate your preservation of this historical snapshot of operations on your farm.

To take advantages of this opportunity, contact Steve Arnold at the Kane County Farm Bureau at (630) 584-8660.

Spring is here! Get grillin' with delicious meats from Kane County Farm Bureau – See page 4 for details.



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Farm Bureau Board Attendance Sept. 2007 – August 2008

	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG
R. Biddle	X	X	X			X	X					
B Collins	*	X	X	X	X	X	X					
C. Collins	X	X	X	X	X			X				
B. Engel	X	X	X		X	X						
G. Feldott	X		X	X	X			X				
G. Gaitsch	X		X	X		X						
R. Gehrke	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
M. Kenyon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
W. Kuipers	X	X		X	X	X						
D. Lehrer	X	X	X		X			X				
A Lenkaitis, Jr.	X		X		X							
M. Pitstick	X		X		X			X				
W. Schneider	X		X	X	X	X	X					
A. Volpp	X		X	X		X	X					
J. White	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					

* Attending the Farm Bureau Leaders to Washington program

Kane County Farmer KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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WOMEN'S CORNER

By Louise Johnson
Women's Committee Chair



Are you tired of scraping tomato paste out of the small can? Next time you need a can of tomato paste in a recipe try this. Cut out one end of the can and remove this disk; turn the can over a dish and cut the other end off, but do not remove this lid; push the second lid through the can. No mess: no fuss: little residue left in the can.

Have you ever had a plugged toilet? I have a trick that may help. When the water level is back to normal or below, flush the toilet. (Never flush if the water level is above normal.) Wait for five to ten seconds and then turn the nearby water on full-blast. Any water nearby works, whether a sink or another toilet, as long as it drains into the same standpipe. You may have to do this several times, always waiting until the water

level is at normal or below. This trick works almost every time, eliminating the need of a messy plunger.

I am still hearing pundits complain that high food prices are a result of grain used for ethanol. They still do not "get it" that grain cost is a very small amount of food cost. However, let us examine some causes of higher grain prices. Higher grain prices are mainly a result of tight worldwide grain supplies, due to weather problems in Europe and Australia and also a growing middle class in India and China, who are eating better food; only a small increase of grain price is due to the use of grain in ethanol. Of course, on top of the increase in grain prices, the cost of a barrel of oil keeps increasing. This is mostly the cause of price increases for food, and

everything else, due to transportation cost increases. Don't let misinformation catch you.

Spring has come and grilling season has begun. This is a recipe from fellow Women's Committee member Bernice Thomas, that you might like.

Savory Grilled Sirloin and Red Potatoes

Courtesy of Bernice Thomas
1 boneless beef top sirloin steak, cut 2" thick (about three pounds)
1/2 teaspoon cracked black pepper
1/3 cup reduced calorie Caesar dressing – divided
18 small red potatoes
6 inch skewers

Season steak with pepper, place in plastic bag: add 1/4 cup dressing, turning to coat. Close bag securely and marinate in refrigerator 15 minutes. Using 6 inch skewers, place 3 potatoes on each. Brush them with remaining dressing. Place the steak and potatoes on grill over medium low coals. Grill 36 minutes for medium, turning once. Carve steak into thin slices. Serve with grilled potatoes.

Get your soil ready for spring

A great service the Farm Bureau offers its members is soil testing. With the upcoming growing season, make sure your soil is ready for planting. There are three different tests available.

Basic Test (1)

\$12.00 per sample for members and \$20.00 per sample for non-members

This test checks for soil pH, phosphorus, and potassium.

Lawn/Garden Test (4)

\$20.00 per sample for members and \$30.00 per sample for non-members

This test includes the basic test plus organic matter and recommendations on amount and

timing of fertilizer.

Lawn/Garden Plus (3)

\$40.00 per sample for members and \$50.00 per sample for non-members

This test includes the Lawn & Garden test plus nutrients, iron, zinc, manganese, copper, sulfur and boron. This test also includes recommendations.

To make sure your soil has an accurate test reading, there are three steps to follow:

For one soil test, collect 5 soil samples by cutting a one-inch hole about 6 inches deep (three inches deep for existing lawn). You should have at least one cup of soil. Do not include

the layer of dead or live plant material in the sample.

Complete the Soil Test Form. Please be as detailed as possible to receive the best recommendations. The Soil Test Forms are available at the Farm Bureau office.

You may bring your sample directly to Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles. The office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please call the office at (630) 584-8660 if you have any questions.

The test results and recommendations will be sent directly to you.

Tuition assistance for vet students

Illinois Farm Bureau has created a loan program to help more large-animal veterinarian students in Illinois succeed. The program is the Illinois Veterinary Education and Training (IVET) Loan Program. This program offers interest-free loans of up to \$20,000 for food-animal veterinary students at the University of Illinois

College of Veterinary Medicine.

Three first-year veterinary students will be awarded \$5000 a year for four years. Semi-annual payments will begin six months after graduation, and the loan will be paid back over five years. The students who receive the loan must commit to a food animal practice and work in this field dur-

ing the life of the loan repayment.

This opportunity will not only help veterinarians get started on a new career, it will help insure the availability of large-animal veterinarians available to assist farmers when needed. For more information or to apply, contact Jim Fraley at fraley@ilfb.org or call 309-557-3109.

Excellence in Agriculture scholarships announced

Applications are now available for the Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship sponsored by the Illinois State Treasurer's office. Ten \$2,500 scholarships, double the number of scholarships awarded last year, will be awarded to Illinois high school seniors with a minimum 2.75 GPA who will pursue ag-related studies in the fall.

Along with a completed application, students applying for this scholarship must submit an essay identifying the reasons the student wants to pursue a career in agriculture or an agriculture-related field, a high school transcript, two letters of

reference, a list of activities and/or honors, and a goal statement.

Complete applications must be postmarked by May 15, 2008. The applications should be sent to the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer, Division of Economic Opportunity, 300 West Jefferson Street, Springfield, IL 62702. Winners will be notified by May 30, 2008.

For more information or an application, you may visit www.treasurer.il.gov, call the Treasurer's Office at (217) 557-6436 or stop by the Kane County Farm Bureau office in St. Charles.

Nursing scholarship now available

Applications are now available for the Illinois Farm Bureau's Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship (RNPS). There will be three \$2,000 scholarships granted this year.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a Registered Nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program.

Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural county in Illinois. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health's Center for Rural Health, 80 counties in Illinois are considered rural. The recipient does not have to live in one of these counties, but they must practice in one of them.

The scholarship recipients will sign a scholarship agreement and

promissory note that states the student will practice in a rural county for two years. After the completion of the two years of service, all obligations are waived. If the recipient does not complete the two years of service, the student will owe the Illinois Farm Bureau the value of the scholarship, including interest.

The scholarship program, now in its fourteenth year, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. The scholarship was started as a way to encourage nurse practitioner students to consider practicing in rural areas.

Applications are available at the Kane County Farm Bureau or at www.ilfb.org. Applications are due May 1. For additional information, you may contact Brenda Matherly at 309-557-3151 or matherly@ilfb.org.

Visit www.kanecfb.com for member benefits

The Kane County Farm Bureau website, www.kanecfb.com, is an excellent source of information for members to learn about the benefits that come with a Kane County Farm Bureau membership.

By selecting Benefits/Services from the menu at the top of the Kane County Farm Bureau homepage, members can see a list of benefits the Farm Bureau offers. The majority of the benefits listed are links to the Illinois Farm Bureau website where the benefits are explained in more detail. The site is updated regularly, so members can be sure to have the most current information right at their fingertips.

One benefit the Farm Bureau offers is a prescription drug discount. By following the PharmaCare (now RxSavings Plus) & ScriptSave prescription drug discount link, members can learn more about these discount programs, the qualifications, and the participating pharmacies. Members can also connect directly to PharmaCare (now Rx Savings Plus) and ScriptSave through the link to obtain a discount prescription card. The essential discount codes are included, and phone numbers are provided for additional assistance.

Note: The PharmaCare program name has changed to RxSavingsPlus, but the current PharmaCare cards will still be honored with the new program. New prescription cards will bear the RxSavingsPlus name on the cards.



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SPRING FOR A DAY

By Tracy Windett



Spring sprung for a day for me in the middle of March. When it was snowy and cold outside, I was nice and warm inside the Donald E. Stevens Convention Center in Rosemont at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show, which ran from March 8 through March 16. I had the great opportunity to see the ribbon cutting at the opening ceremony, beautiful flowers and plants.

Visitors could participate in many exhibits and seminars to learn more about how to use flowers and plants, making recipes with ingredients from the garden, gardening in small spaces and having fun while doing it all.

One of my favorite topics of the event was container gardening. As one speaker said, "Pots are hot!" When my group first got to the show, we signed up

for a class to make a potted plant project.

We used different plants to make a beautiful spring arrangement, and we learned some interesting facts, like the "thriller, filler and spiller" concept. The thriller part of the potted plant arrangement is usually a tall plant like a grass or flower that brings a lot of interest to the grouping. The filler is usually a low-growing plant that fills in the empty spaces. Pansies and lettuce are good examples of fillers. The spiller is a plant that falls over the edge of the pot. We used different types of ivy in our pots to spill over the edge.

Another idea for container gardening is the "cram and jam" method. In the Teaching Garden, Nancy Clifton of the Chicago Botanic Garden showed us how to put plants together for containers. She

Playful calves in rural Illinois pastures are as sure a sign of spring as boot-sucking mud from the spring thaw and the daffodils on Grandma's hillside.

My favorite pasture view is on my 30-minute trip through the countryside to buy groceries. A farmer between here and there has pastures on both sides of the highway that fill with calves as the weather warms. I enjoy the view. The farmers do all the work.

Farmers who raise cows and calves say spring calving season is a favorite time of year, despite the muddy conditions or calf-pulling that sometimes comes with it. Similarly, retailers say the same about Christmas, even though they work longer hours to greet bargain hunters at early-bird and night-owl specials.

Calving season is equally exhausting. I know a cattleman who sleeps in a camper near the cows this time of year. That's

KANE COUNTY FARMER

crammed and jammed plants into pots to make beautiful arrangements.

Nancy explained that container gardening is great for all seasons, and she even added a fifth season, indoor gardening. She believes February and March are months when indoor gardens are great ways to get a jump-start on bringing spring and summer into our homes.

We also went to a few seminars. My favorite seminar was about having fun in the garden. The speaker, Ellen Zachos, presented ways to have fun in the garden. Her book, *Down & Dirty: 43 Fun & Funky First-Time Projects & Activities to Get You Gardening*, is one I would recommend to anyone.

Ellen showed us some of the projects, and I am excited to try some of them myself, especially the strawberry ice cream recipe she gave us using fresh strawberries. Other topics in her book include basic techniques and tools, container garden ideas, hummingbird attractions, gardens for kids and recipes from the garden. This would be a great book for anyone looking to have some outdoor fun all

more comfortable than the barn, but most I know sleep in their own beds and instead leave their boots and coveralls at the back door. They check on the expectant cows and heifers every couple hours throughout the day and largely into the night.

My memories with cattle are fewer than with pigs, but I do remember the sadness of Dad's failed attempt to open the airway of a newborn calf and amazement of watching healthy newborn calves stand and walk to their mothers within 20 minutes of birth.

I also recall staying safely in the pickup truck as Dad checked the health of calves in a pasture. He walked out and touched a calf still at its mother's side and would show no fear to the nervous, circling mother six times his size. I'm not that brave, which is why I primarily chose pigs for my 4-H projects. But they don't talk as much.

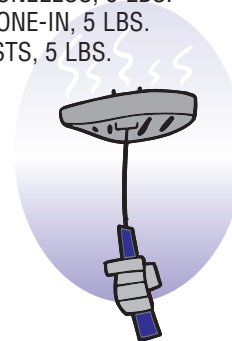
scape companies around Illinois. Whether the occasion called for something fancy or something less formal, the tablescape introduced some great ideas for entertaining guests. Some of my favorite decorating ideas were to bunch asparagus together and stick sunflowers in the mix, put little carrots in candleholders and add feathers to flower arrangements.

The event was a great way to spend a cold Saturday. I am now equipped with some great ideas to decorate my own small space and to bring some extra sunlight to my garden.

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU Product List

Prices subject to change without notice

PRODUCT	"MM" or "A+"	"A"
CLEARANCE - WHILE THEY LAST		
BUTTER TOFFEE PEANUTS 12 OZ	\$2.00	\$2.00
PECAN HALVES, 1 LB BAG - 50% OFF	\$3.50	\$3.75
CINNAMON GLAZED PECANS, 12 OZ. BAG	\$3.00	\$3.25
NUTS		
SKINLESS PEANUTS, 20 OZ. CAN	\$4.00	\$4.50
HONEY KRUNCH PEANUTS, 11 OZ. CAN	\$3.75	\$4.25
PEANUT BRITTLE BITES, 12 OZ. CAN	\$3.75	\$4.25
PORK SPICE 12 OZ	\$4.75	\$5.00
POPCORN		
YELLOW, 2 LB BAG	\$2.25	\$2.50
MEAT		
CARNE ASADA Special	\$30.00	\$31.00
STUFFED PORK TENDERLOINS, 3-1/2 LBS.	\$16.50	\$17.50
APPLEWOOD SMOKED BACON, 2-1/2 LBS.	\$12.00	\$13.00
ITALIAN CHICKEN BREASTS	\$18.50	\$19.50
BOURBON STEAKS, 5 LBS.	\$30.00	\$31.00
PORK CHOPS BONELESS, 5 LBS.	\$22.00	\$23.00
PORK CHOPS BONE-IN, 5 LBS.	\$22.00	\$23.00
CHICKEN BREASTS, 5 LBS.	\$18.50	\$19.50
HAMBURGERS	\$16.50	\$17.50
SOIL TEST		
SOIL TEST 1	\$12.00	\$20.00 non
SOIL TEST 4	\$20.00	\$30.00 non
SOIL TEST 3	\$30.00	\$40.00 non
CANDLES		
Small	\$4.50	\$5.00
Large 16 oz.	\$10.00	\$10.50
X-Large 21 oz.	\$11.00	\$11.50
PLAT BOOKS - KANE COUNTY	\$50.00	\$50.00
THEATER TICKETS - Charlestowne 18	\$6.00	\$6.00
SMV SIGNS		
Individual sign	\$5.50	
Kit	\$12.50	



Farm Gate

by Joanie Stiers

Grandpa knows what a cow wants by the sound of her moo. The moo of gratitude to see a bucket of corn, the moo that says "we've escaped our pens" and the moo of a mother cow preparing for impending birth.

The sounds are as translatable as Charlie Brown's teacher for most of us. But my Grandpa, a lifelong cattleman, knows how to react, just as an experienced mother knows the meaning behind the coos and cries of a baby. Grandpa especially deciphers moos and studies the body language of his herd this time of year, when calves are born.

Help wanted: Booming Illinois agriculture industry needs grads

While tractors and cornfields may come to mind when consumers think about traditional agriculture, educators and business professionals say it's time to think outside the box. Agriculture today is a highly technical industry with more than 300 professional science, technology and business career fields. The Illinois agriculture industry has diverse positions to fill with qualified high school and college graduates.

"We do need more graduates to fill industry jobs statewide," confirms Jay Runner, Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE) coordinator, Rantoul, Ill. "As Illinois' largest employer, one in five people works in the agriculture industry. More than two-thirds of Illinois' job growth is related to agriculture, and even with the current economic outlook, more growth is projected for agriculture in the next decade."

Mike Williams, director of human resources, Ball Horticultural Company, West

Chicago, Ill., can attest to that. "We are not seeing an increase in the number of qualified students for the horticulture industry, and we need more qualified professionals," he says. "We need researchers, business professionals and plant specialists to fill positions that truly offer a mix of business and science at the same time. The industry is healthy, and there are definitely career opportunities here where students can make their mark."

Fred Kolb, teaching coordinator, University of Illinois Department of Crop Sciences,

Urbana, Ill., says the ever evolving complexion of agriculture has increased demand for highly skilled positions and driven higher both job competition and starting salaries.

"The industry can't find enough students to meet demand," he says. "The average salary in 2005-06 for an undergraduate crop sciences degree was \$42,000. That keeps going higher. About one-third of our students go to grad school, where demand is just as high."

Agricultural education offers
(continued on page 7)

Beef store is now open!
Sat. 9-4 or by appointment

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100% hormone free beef.
Selling individual cuts. Buy as little or as much as you want.

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AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



March was a very busy month for us here at the Farm Bureau. Ag Days was March 18-20th at Mooseheart. Over 2,400 children and their teachers rotated through the field house learning about agriculture and how it touches their daily lives. I so enjoy watching the students with the animals and their attentive faces as they walk through the expo area. Many are completely amazed by the fact that soybeans and corn are in so many different products or that pig and beef byproducts are used to make

gelatin, cosmetics, insulin, and many other products.

As I've said before, we could not have a successful Ag Days without the help of our many volunteers. This year we had over 40 people help us with filling the 2,400 student bags with information for the children to have as they left the expo. The Women's Committee filled the teacher bags on Wednesday and then many of them returned on Thursday to fill the bags for the students – they are pros at filling these bags. Then there were all the people who presented at the

KANE COUNTY FARMER

expo, talking to hundreds of students a day about their particular area of agriculture. They always do such a wonderful job, thank goodness for their strong voices. The people behind the scenes are not to be forgotten. Those who escort student groups through the expo, keep track of who is here and when they are to begin the expo, answer student questions about the animals or machines, pass out the informational bags to students and teachers, and last but not least, the timer and bell ringers, who makes sure the students move within the expo in a timely manner. Many of these people have been at the expo each year for the twenty four years it has been in existence. Thank you, one and all for your tireless service to Ag in the Classroom. Of course, thank you also to those new volunteers

who want to help us spread the word about the importance of our food and fiber, we are glad to have you join us.

On a personal note, I was able to travel to Australia in February, completing my personal goal of visiting each of the seven continents. I saw no corn or soybeans, but much sugar cane. Many sheep, cows, and beef cattle grazed in the pastures. The Melbourne area has had a drought for the last ten years, so they are working hard in their conservation of water. It did rain when we left, which

APRIL 2008

was cause for much happiness. Sadly, it will take much more rain to undo the damage. Conversely, flooding was taking place in some areas where unprecedented rains had fallen. Even being so far away, some of the agricultural problems remain the same.

Spring is a time of many programs for us, so it is a busy time. The farmers are anxiously waiting the moment the fields are ready for planting, as I'm sure many of us are with our gardens or simply to be outside. Happy spring!

Attention Agriculture & Education students 2008 Internship Program for assisting in the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's Ag Communication/ Ag-in-the-Classroom program

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation is a general not-for-profit corporation organized under IRS Code 501(c)(3) with one of its goals being to serve the needs of our county's youth through education and other opportunities, so that they may increase their skills in agriculture.

The Foundation has agreed

to fund an internship(s) to assist the Farm Bureau in its Public Relations efforts and to assist in the coordination of the Kane County Farm Bureau's "Ag-in-the-Classroom" (AIRC) program. AIRC is an educational program designed to instruct students of all ages of agriculture's role in society using innovative techniques such as sci-

ence experiments, videotapes, classroom visits and other materials.

The intern chosen will work directly with the KCFB manager, Ag-in-the-Classroom coordinator and the Ag-in-the-Classroom Committee under the academic supervision of a college or university instructor.

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU INTERNSHIPS AGRICULTURAL FIELDS OF STUDY

- Location:** St. Charles, Illinois
Dates: Flexible
Pre-requisites: 30 undergraduate hours (communications or education emphasis preferred)
Requirements: Minimum of 300 hours, minimum of 20 hours/week (summer) Minimum of 100 hours (winter) or 30 hours (spring)
Value: up to \$2500 to be paid at conclusion of internship (summer) up to \$750 (winter) and \$300 (spring)

Responsibilities:

- Promote and coordinate Ag-in-the-Classroom projects
- Assist with the planning of a week-long, graduate credit Summer Agricultural Institute for teachers
- Assist with public relations efforts through newsletters, press releases and other correspondence
- Develop grant requests to provide funding for the comprehensive Ag Ed program in Kane County
- Coordinate County Fair activities with volunteer committees
- Inventory, checkout and track educational materials
- Work with volunteers to update and enhance Ag-in-the-Classroom programs

Contact: Steve Arnold, Executive Director 630-584-8660 or e-mail info@kanecfb.com. Applications are available online at www.kanecfb.com.

COUNTRY honors local agency manager

COUNTRY Insurance and Financial Services Agency Manager Jack Smith of Schaumburg has earned a position on the insurance group's distinguished All American team.

Smith is among a group of more than 300 COUNTRY agents and agency managers who qualified for the award. COUNTRY has more than 2,000 agents and agency managers in 14 states. This is the 12th time he has been named an All American.

Smith also qualified for the COUNTRY Executive Club, whose members represent the top three percent of agents and the

top 10 percent of agency managers for overall achievement.

All American is awarded each year by COUNTRY to agents and agency managers who have excelled in identifying insurance products and financial solutions that fit the needs of their clients. Agency managers and agents who receive the award provide outstanding service to their clients.

"The All American is among the highest honor a COUNTRY agent or agency manager can receive. Members of our agency force who earn this distinction are those who have shown a true

commitment to customers' needs," says Paul V. Bishop, Senior Vice President of Sales for COUNTRY.

Smith's office is located at 2519 W. Schaumburg Road, Schaumburg. The office phone number is (847) 891-0001.



Jack Smith

HEA news

The Plato Center HEA will meet on Friday, April 18 at noon at the Plato Center Township Hall, 10N924 Rippburger Road. This will be the Annual International Potluck Luncheon.

There will also be a lesson on "Small Flower Beds with Seasonal Interest." Anyone interested in joining this meeting or any other meeting may call Joan at (847) 931-8120.

Your
Farm Bureau
membership means
Value

Book of the Month

"The gardening year begins in early spring and carries through until the first hard frosts of late fall herald a period of dormancy for most plants ... It is possible, however, to divide the gardening year into three principal seasons of activity."

The author gives suggestions for each season to keep your garden healthy. The topics he covers are introducing new plants, propagation, seasonal pruning, lawn care, pond care, routine care, and soil management.



Gardenwork

A Step-by-step guide to vital gardening tasks through the year
By Steven Bradley

The photos, by Anne Hyde, are so colorful and make you want to get started creating your garden today. Many diagrams are used to explain the author's directions, which help with clarity.

Come in and borrow this gardening book. I plan on following the "repairing a damaged patch" to help my lawn this spring. Somehow, my dog destroys a patch of grass over every winter. The book has practical answers to many of our questions.

Recruiter of the Month for February

Each month, Kane County Farm Bureau honors the person or persons who sign the most members into our organization. In December, we would like to congratulate Ted Schuster. He has signed thirteen new members to be named top recruiter for February 2008.

Ted has been an agent with COUNTRY's St. Charles Agency since March 2005. Ted serves clients from his office located at 32 Cross St. Sugar Grove, IL 60554. You may reach Ted at 630-466-9600.

As a token of our apprecia-

tion, Ted will receive a box of chicken breasts. Thank you, Ted for your continued support of Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success.



Ted Schuster

EMERGENCY WELL & PUMP SERVICE

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815-439-9245

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80± ac. Dekalb Co., IL New Price!
32± ac. Bureau Co., IL

Call Bill Green:
630-761-8143

10± ac. Kendall Co., IL

visit our website at
www.capitalag.com

Rhythm: What is it and how does it affect my horse?

By Sara McKiness
of Horse Logic

EDITOR'S NOTE: Based in St. Charles, Sara McKiness is a Certified Horse Trainer who helps riders improve their communication with horses without punishment. She graduated valedictorian from Meredith Manor International Equestrian Center (MMIEC) where she majored in teaching and training, and minored in Farrier Science.

The Training Tree is a natural progression of training as it allows the horse to really understand what you are asking of him by breaking it down into simple consecutive steps. It acts like a formula that can be followed and

reproduced with any horse. **Rhythm: Step 1 of the Training Tree***

Rhythm is step 1 of the training and the foundation for all horse training. This applies to both groundwork and under saddle work. The definition of Rhythm is a regularly repeated pattern, movement, beat or sequence of events.

Rhythm is the first step of the training tree because it is the foundation for all training. It helps to establish trust by remaining consistent and doesn't allow for surprises that could



jeopardize the trust between you and your horse. Another reason that this is the first step in the training tree is rhythm helps to show the horse that you are consistent in everything that you do.

As the handler, you really need to train yourself always to be rhythmical anytime you are around the horses. This means that your breathing, footfalls and anything else that you do need to have a consistent rhythm. Horses pay close attention to these details because in the wild it can mean life or death. So when you go to your barn and get your horse out of the pasture remember to stay very rhythmical and consistent. This will start out the time you spend with your horse positively.

If your horse maintains a

consistent rhythm in his breathing, he has rhythm. Anytime that your horse's breathing is not rhythmical he is worried about something, and it is usually something that the handler has caused. For example, you may introduce a saddle pad too fast and cause your horse to breathe faster. By introducing the saddle pad in a non-rhythmical way, you have interrupted his rhythm and thus can't proceed further up the training tree. At this point, you need to reintroduce the saddle pad at a slower pace.

You must also strive very hard to maintain your own breathing. One thing to remember is you must keep your rhythmic breathing at all times, even if your horse spooks at something. He will start to figure out that you maintain your breathing and rhythm, which will show

him that you are a safe place to be. This is a huge positive reinforcement of your relationship. If you have a hard time with your breathing while in the saddle, try whistling or humming while riding. This way you can't hold your breath. It will get easier every time you do it.

Maintaining consistent rhythm will make a huge difference in all of your training sessions.

**As taught by Meredith Manor International Equestrian Ctr*

I welcome any suggestions for future articles, or if you like me to answer any horse related question on my blog, just let me know. You can view my blog by visiting my site and clicking on the Blog button.

If you have any questions regarding this article, please contact the author at 630-631-2746 or at www.horselogic.net.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

By Beth Dawson

We have many benefits that are exclusive to you for being a Kane County Farm Bureau member.

Benefits that are available to Kane County Farm Bureau members include the following:

- Beltone Hearing Aids allows you to save 20% and FREE hearing screening
- Vision offers to save you up to 50% at Sears, Pearle Vision, JC Penney and Target Optical Stores
- Dell allows you to save up to 12%
- Grainger allows you to save 10%
- Sherwin-Williams allows you

to save 25% (excluding Duration Paints and Sale items)

- Case IH offers \$300 off DXE/DX Series and \$500 off JX series and Maxxum Series tractors.
- Hotel discounts at more than a dozen national chains that can save you up to 20%.
- Enterprise, Alamo, Hertz, and National Car Rentals offers to save you up to 20%.

And much, much more. Please call the office at 630-584-8660 for discount codes and more information.

I hope everyone is enjoying Spring!

Grads needed

(continued from page 4)

a sound curriculum, too. Illinois agricultural education provides practical high school science, language arts and math credits. Almost 80 percent of Illinois' high school agricultural education programs receive academic course credit in math, science, social studies, language arts or consumer economics. At the University of Illinois, the Department of Crop Sciences offers six major concentrations, including integrated pest man-

agement, plant biotechnology and molecular biology.

"The emphasis on molecular biology and plant biotechnology has produced a major shift in our students' backgrounds," Kolb says. "A very high percentage do not come from farms anymore, but have urban or suburban backgrounds. Many are also women."

The same is true of Illinois high school agricultural education students. About 34 percent are female and 87 percent come from families where farming is not the primary income.

Students need to know you don't have to be a farmer or sell seed. Many of the most brilliant scientific minds in history worked in agriculture. As more students in urban settings are exposed to the opportunities through agricultural education in the classroom and through FFA, we can continue to further our industry."

Agritourism website launched

A growing segment of Illinois' rural economy has a new information source, courtesy of University of Illinois Extension. John Pike, a U of I Extension community and economic development educator, developed "Illinois AgriTourism" (<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/agritourism/>).

"Agritourism is a growing segment of the rural economy," he explained. "Many farm-based agritourism businesses attract customers directly to the farm gate today and many more are being developed. These enterprises market a wide variety of produce, products, and services to a wide variety of consumers."

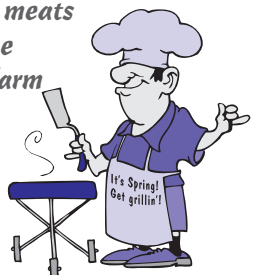
Increasingly, Pike added, consumers often value the experience of visiting a farm or rural area as much as the merchandise they purchase along the way.

Pike defined agritourism as any business activity that brings the public to a farm or rural setting in an effort to market farm-raised or produced products or to enjoy related outdoor activities.

"Examples of agritourism include, but are not limited to, pumpkin patches, berry farms, orchards, wineries, corn mazes, bed and breakfasts, farm markets, and hunting clubs," he said.

The website includes information about resources available to those considering launching an agritourism enterprise and links to other helpful websites

Get grillin' with delicious meats from Kane County Farm Bureau See page 4 for details.



CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

Exercise Machine - like new - used a couple of times. Called Fitness Flyer. Have video. \$75 OBO. Call: 847-741-5675

Straw; oats; hay; ear corn; barley straw, good for natural control of pond scum. Kenyon Bros. ask for Mike, 847-741-1818

1994 Ford F350 Crew Cab pickup with cap, 96,000 miles, has had only one owner, \$5,500 OBO. Call: 815-827-3265

IH 3514 Loader Tractor, Hydro on floor, PTO & 3-point. Good condition. Call: 815 827 3285

Woods rotary mower, \$1200 OBO. Call: 847-464-5155

Farm equipment - 25 ft. Crumbler DMI. Call 630-556-3495 or 630-997-4306.

SERVICES

Nelson Landscape and Hauling: Bobcat work, pulverized dirt, gravel, sod, and misc. odd jobs. Call: 630-365-2392

2007 CSA vegetable subscription program. Naturally grown, weekly farm pick-up or delivery. Web: erehwonfarm.com or call Tim Fuller. Call: 630-365-3741

Design In Time, a professional home staging firm, can help put that "sold" sign in your front yard. Call: 847-683-9340

GENERAL LAWN MOWER REPAIR, service all makes & models, pickup & delivery or service calls also available. Kaneville Mower Service - Call: 630-557-2713

Western Surveying & Engineering offers a 10% discount to KCFB voting members. See our ad in the Kane County Farmer or Call: 630-845-0600.

CLASSIFIED ADS KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

Classified advertising rates: 20 cents per word/\$10 minimum. DISCOUNTS for members: Associate members, 20%; Voting members, 30%; PLUS members, 40%. Payment in advance is requested. Voting members receive limited free classified advertising of farm commodities and farm equipment. Ads are due by the 15th of every month for the next issue. No advertising (classified or display) for financial or insurance services will be accepted.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Category: Circle One: For Sale, Wanted, For Rent, Services,
 Other: _____
 Ad copy: _____

 Member No. _____ Phone No. _____

Complete the above form and mail to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 or fax to (630) 584-0023. Non-member ad rate: payable with ad, \$10.00 - 20 word maximum per ad.

Blain's FARM & FLEET
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Spring **150** New & Used Trucks Discounted For Quick Sale!

TRUCK BLOW-OUT!

Thursday, April 24 • 9am-9pm
 Friday, April 25 • 9am-9pm
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Event Site:
Blain's FARM & FLEET
 Rte 14, Woodstock, IL

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Jack Cronan Of St. Charles

Ag Days - 2008 -

Kane County farmers take agricultural education seriously. At the Kane County Farm Bureau Women's Committee's 24th annual Ag Days a core group of local farmers and related professionals repeated a score of presentations at least 100 times to 4th graders eager to learn about the world around them.

Ag Days is the Farm Bureau's single largest undertaking on an annual basis. Over 2,300 Kane County 4th grade students visited our Agricultural Education expo at the Mooseheart Fieldhouse on March 18, 19 & 20. Planning for and providing lessons and materials to that number of children over a three-day period takes literally hundreds of volunteer hours.

Ag Days is only possible through a generous outpouring of time, talents and energy by dozens and dozens of volunteers. We tried to thank as many of them as possible by name at the bottom of this page. We apologize to anyone we've overlooked. For all your assistance in helping agriculture and farming come alive for Kane County students, the Kane County Farm Bureau says THANK YOU!



1. Ag Days begins each year with "bag stuffing," gathering resource materials from presenters and commodity organizations across the state and, through the efforts of dozens of volunteers, creating individual packets of materials for each of the 2,300 students to take back to the classroom.
2. In addition to Farm Bureau member volunteers, this year two local service clubs assisted with AgDays preparations, the Kiwanis Club of St. Charles and the Key Club of Geneva High School. Pictured in the FB lobby with Moo-a-Lisa the cow are Key Club members.
3. The students' first stop after getting off the bus at Mooseheart is this fenceline where they receive instruction before proceeding onto one of their favorite stops, the Farm Animal Zoo. This year Mooseheart Farm provided a miniature horse, goats, sheep and lambs, rabbits and chickens.
- 4, 5, 6. This sampling of the score of 5 minute presentation for 4th graders includes 4-H Ambassadors (l-r) Ariel Parks, Kim Braddock, Meredith Koehl and Mary Byker, explaining the opportunities available through 4H at the University of Illinois Extension Service, Kane County, booth; Donna Lehrer, Manager Green Pastures Fiber Cooperative and co-owner-operator of Esther's Place Fiber Arts Studio demonstrating the uses of fiber and Docents from Garfield Farms demonstrating life and farm chores in the 1840's.
7. At the last stop before re-boarding the buses, students get an up close view of modern farm machinery. FFA members from Kaneland, Hampshire and Hinckley-Big Rock explained the purpose and operation of farmer Bruce Nagel's tractors, tillage equipment and combine.
8. And the glue that holds together the 70+ volunteers per day needed for AgDays to run smoothly, Ag Literacy Coordinator Suzi Myers waiting for the next bus of eager 4th graders to arrive.

Thank you...

These volunteers listed below contributed several hours of their evening on March 13 to agricultural education by helping the Kane County Farm Bureau create over 2,300 information packets for fourth graders attending the 24th Ag Days. For your assistance the Farm Bureau says *Thanks!*

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Christine Leyden | Dorothy Milnamow |
| Keith Eakins | Betty Reiser |
| Tammy Cisneros | Jim O'Connell |
| Gerry Regan | Deloris O'Connell |
| Jane Cerny | Bill Collins |
| Edna Boyle | Ken Meyer |
| Evelyn Lootens | Nancy Meyer |
| Mary Diehl | Rachael Mickle |
| Paul Diehl | Key Club Geneva High School |

Ag Days would not be possible without the support of dozens and dozens of volunteers. For helping make the 2008 Ag Days at Mooseheart a success, the Kane County Farm Bureau extends our sincere thanks to:

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Luke Allen | Victor Fields | Judy Klein | Ariel Parks |
| Steve Austin | Jenny Flint | Meredith Koehl | Haley Patzer |
| Ken Bartels | Larry Frye | Alyce Konen | Randy Pauli |
| Marti Berg | JC Gillett | Bob Konen | Carrie Pollard |
| Gary Blankenship | Katherine Goldenstein | Lydia Larrabee | Pattie Rayfield |
| Sandy Bottoms | Margaret Goldenstein | Donna Lehrer | Gerry Regan |
| Kim Braddock | Sally Gorenz | Al Lenkaitis | Jan Reynolds |
| JoAnn Britton | Chris Gould | Linda Lood | Jim Reynolds |
| Darin Butler | Connie Gustafson | Evelyn Lootens | Deanna Roby |
| Mary Byker | Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller | Stasi McCrory | Tom Ryterske |
| Anne Carson | Soren Hall | Matthew McCullough | Christine Stahl |
| Ruth Ann Ceney | Ben Hanks | Nicholas McCullough | Kate Stough |
| Kristen Coady | Caroline Helmke | Ken Meyer | Mary Stough |
| Flo Dangelo | Thomas Hillier | Nancy Meyer | Beulah Swanson |
| Mary Diehl | Janet Hodel | Dorothy Milnamow | Chuck Swanson |
| Paul Diehl | Glenn Johnson | Sheila Mukite | Dara Taylor |
| Linda Drendel | Louise Johnson | John Nepermann | Bernice Thomas |
| Beth Engel | Kent Kleckner | Deloris O'Connell | Sheila Tustin |
| Mark Engel | Dan Klein | James O'Connell | Patty Vogel |
| Garfield Farm | | Barbara Pachla | |

Thanks Mooseheart!

In addition to the hundreds of hours logged by Farm Bureau volunteers to make Ag Days possible, a small but dedicated core of Mooseheart staff members makes things happen behind the scenes to help this educational program run smoothly. Kane County Farm Bureau salutes Mooseheart's Brad Kriegel, Keith Strutz, Bob Trentt, Dave Spoden and Janine Silverman for making our 2008 AgDays run smoothly.