

# 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. 1 JANUARY 2008

## KCFB recognized for volunteer achievement



Kane County Farm Bureau President, Robert Gehrke of Elgin, accepted a recognition plaque awarded to the Kane County Farm Bureau for its achievements during 2007. The award was presented during the IFB Annual Meeting and calls attention to the comprehensive nature of county Farm Bureau programs.

The Kane County Farm Bureau was recognized for its achievements during the 93rd annual meeting of the Illinois Farm Bureau in Chicago, Illinois, December 1-4, 2007.

Both the Women's and Young Farmer's Committees of the association were awarded a "Silver Star" award in competition among the largest county Farm Bureaus in Illinois.

In program awards competi-

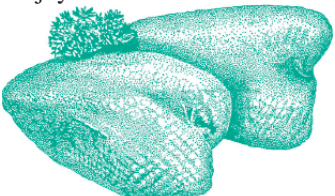
tion among those same county Farm Bureaus, Kane County Farm Bureau was recognized for its efforts in Local Affairs, (Gold Star); Commodities and Marketing, Legislative/Political Process and Member Relations (Silver Star); and Ag Literacy, Health & Safety, Communication & Promotion and Policy Development (Bronze Star).

Kane County also received recognition in its continuous growth in its total membership since 1997. In addition, the county received a Bronze for its Multi-County Project efforts. Illinois Farm Bureau judges local program and committee efforts annually and presents awards in recognition of outstanding county Farm Bureau volunteer efforts throughout the year.

### JANUARY SPECIAL - Italian Chicken Breasts

These were such a popular item last time, we decided to bring them back. These Italian-style marinated chicken breasts are individually vacuum-packed to seal in the flavor, and sold in 5-pound boxes. Each box sells for \$18.50 to M or A+ members, and \$19.50 to A members. These are delicious baked alone or in the following recipe.

For a quick, non-fried version of chicken parmesan, put the chicken breasts in a casserole dish or baking pan and bake at 325° for 25-30 minutes until cooked through. Remove from oven and place sliced provolone or mozzarella cheese atop the chicken breasts, sprinkle with Parmesan or Romano cheese, and top with a couple of large spoonfuls of marinara or spaghetti sauce. Return to oven until cheese melts and sauce is heated through. Enjoy!



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### January 1, 2008

Office Closed

#### January 3

Board of Directors, 7:30 p.m.

#### January 9

Women's Committee, 9 a.m.

#### January 9-10

Northern Illinois Farm Show, DeKalb

#### January 9-12

Illinois Specialty Crops & Agritourism Conference, Springfield, IL

#### January 12-16

AFBF Annual Meeting, New Orleans

#### January 20

Young Farmer Bowling, 4 Seasons Sports, DeKalb, 5:00 p.m.

#### January 22

Canadian Rockies By Rail Tour Preview, 6:30 p.m.

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

## Food Check-Out 'Challenge' scheduled

The Kane County Farm Bureau will once again be extending its Food Check-Out "Challenge", for a Shopping Spree to benefit local food pantries. The "Challenge" Spree will be scheduled for early February at the Batavia Jewel-Osco. During the seventh annual Shopping Spree, public officials

### FOOD CHECK-OUT WEEK



Farm Bureau

race through the aisles to restock the shelves of local food pantries.

The Farm Bureau's Government Affairs & Public Policy Committee has invited 43rd District State Representative Ruth Munson of Elgin to compete this year. Munson will be asked to name

her competitor. According to committee Chairman Steve Pitstick of Maple Park, both contestants will be asked to represent a food pantry of their choosing.

"All of the groceries collected during the five minute spree are purchased by the Farm Bureau and donated to the respective pantries," said

Pitstick. "Past shoppers have included State Senators Chris Lauzen, Steve Rauschenberger, John Millner, Linda Holmes and Mike Noland; State Representatives Linda Chapa-LaVia, Pat Lindner, and Tim Schmitz; current and former County Board Chairs Karen

McConnaughay and Mike McCoy and Kane County State's Attorney John Barsanti," he added.

Food Check-Out day is marked every year as the day when most Americans have earned enough disposable income to pay for all the food they eat - both at home and away from home - for the entire year. In the past few years, the average American earned enough income to pay for all the food consumed in one year in only 37 calendar days. Typically, consumers spend just 10 percent of their disposable annual income on food. This low number is thanks to the efficient efforts by America's farmers and ranchers, who work hard every day to provide safe, abundant and affordable food supply.

## Touch a tractor

Mark your calendars for Touch-A-Tractor! This event was recognized as one of the top ten most outstanding agricultural education programs in the nation by the American Farm Bureau Federation, and the dates have been set for March 28 and 29, 2008. The event is held at our office, 2N710 Randall Road in St. Charles. There will be

demonstrations, food vendors, and entertainment.

We are looking for tractors, both modern and antique, combines, planters, and tillage equipment. We are also looking for volunteers to explain the how the equipment works. Do you have antique farm tractors or equipment? We are looking for retired and former farmers to

volunteer their tractors, equipment, and knowledge to share with the community. If you are interested in volunteering or you have tractors or equipment to share, please fill out the form below and return it to us.

The event is a great success with people young and old. In addition to having the opportunity to Touch-A-Tractor, the public can participate in hands-on Ag-in-the-Classroom activities. This is a great event for the entire family. Last year, children rode on a pedal tractor, shelled corn, visited the farm zoo, climbed on tractors and combines, planted seeds, scavenged for prizes, carded wool, and listened to the band.

In conjunction with this event, the Kane County Farm Bureau will be drawing the winning ticket in the Winner's Choice Raffle. The winner will have the choice between a 1952 John Deere Model B, a NEW Cub Cadet LT 1046 Lawn Tractor, or a cash prize. The second prize winner will receive a Cub Cadet model 989 21" 5 horsepower walk behind mower. Tickets are available in the Kane County Farm Bureau office. All proceeds from the event will go toward the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's scholarship fund.

This is an event you will not want to miss!



Heather Pierson and Michael Drendel, Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship winners, volunteered at the 2007 Touch-A-Tractor event by selling raffle tickets. To volunteer to assist or for more information, call the Farm Bureau at (630) 584-8660.

### Help make Touch-a-Tractor a success.

\_\_\_ Contact me about volunteer opportunities on:

\_\_\_ Fri., Mar 28 \_\_\_ Sat., Mar 29

\_\_\_ I would like to bring the following farm equipment to display.

Please provide a brief description of the equipment. For tractors/combines, include year, make, model and horsepower.

Description \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and return to Kane County Farm Bureau,  
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

Canadian Rockies  
by Rail Trip  
Private Well Testing  
see page 8 for details

# Two Young Leaders will represent Kane County in Puerto Rico!

Dale Pitstick of Maple Park and John Biddle of Elburn will represent Kane County Farm Bureau at the Young Leader Ag Industry Tour to Puerto Rico. The tour has been scheduled for February 26 through March 2, and is sponsored by the Illinois Farm Bureau.

Tour sites will include Syngenta Seed, a plantain and papaya farm, a large tomato operation, Hacienda Buena Vista, U.S. Coast Guard, El Yunque Rainforest, Illinois Crop Improvement Association, Bacardi Rum, and Pennock Growers. This trip provides the IFB Young Leaders with exposure to marketing techniques that improve farm profitability, to highlight innovative ideas, show how farm inputs are produced and how farm products move in the hands of consumers.

Pitstick and Biddle are leaders of the Young Farmers Committee of the Kane County Farm Bureau. Young Farmer/Young Leader activities are open to members 35 years or

younger and focus on leadership development, social and educational programs. For additional information, please contact the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.



Dale Pitstick and John Biddle will be representing Kane County on the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Ag Industry Tour to Puerto Rico in February. Some of the places they will visit include Syngenta Seed, U.S. Coast Guard and El Yunque Rainforest.

# Delegates support Kane Co. resolutions

Among the Policy Resolutions approved by delegates sitting in convention at the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Farm Bureau last month in Chicago were two provisions offered by farmers in Kane County. One policy addressed farmland protection efforts and the second, farmland assess-

ments. The first calls on Illinois Farm Bureau to seek legislation authorizing county and municipal establishment of farmland protection programs. Kane County Farm Bureau caused legislation to be introduced into the Illinois General Assembly on this issue in 2007, but the bill

stalled in the Illinois Senate after passing the House of Representatives in May.

The second policy resolution called for uniform application of the farmland assessment law to all qualifying agricultural property, regardless of size. The resolution stated that Farm Bureau will work with Supervisors of Assessments and local assessing officials to ensure proper application of the farmland assessment law.

Delegates representing Kane County farmers at the meeting were KCFB President Bob Gehrke of Elgin, Secretary-Treasurer Joe White of Elburn, and Directors Jerry Gaitsch of Huntley and Donna Lehrer of Big Rock. They were among the 370 plus voting members of county Farm Bureaus in Illinois who helped set policy on local, state and national issues for the state largest organization of farmers.



Annual Meetings need not be all work and no play. Here contestants from Kane County participate in a team "Trivia Night" contest that challenged their recollections of musical groups, agricultural facts, organizational history, American history, landmarks, science and other subjects. Pictured are John White Jr., Beth Engel, Joe White, Suzi Myers, Steve Arnold, Bob Gehrke and Donna Lehrer.

# Soil & Water Management workshops offer CCA credit in February

Sustaining Illinois Soils will be the focus of the Soil and Water Management Workshop to be offered throughout the state by University of Illinois Extension on February 21, 2008. The workshop will provide four continuing education units in soil and water management and one hour in nutrient management for Certified Crop Advisors. Although CCA credit is offered, anyone interested is welcome to attend. Interested persons should note that this is a repeat workshop of the program in Oregon, Princeton and Springfield on December 6, 2007.

Northern Illinois locations for the workshops are at University of Illinois Extension offices in St. Charles and Freeport. Each meeting is

scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided for registrants. Presentations will be provided by both live speakers and through the University of Illinois teleconference system, depending on the location.

Topics presented will include Understanding Illinois Soils, Soils and Climate Change, Recycling Dredged Sediment for Topsoil, Phosphorous and Soils, and Soil Microbiology. Speakers will include University of Illinois specialists and Extension Educators.

Registration fees are \$30 per person, and must be sent to the Extension office location where participants will attend by February 14. To obtain registration forms, contact the Kane County Extension office at 630-584-6166.



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.

# Young Farmers to bowl

The Young Farmers from Kane County and surrounding counties will be taking a trip to Four Seasons Sports in Sycamore for an evening of bowling. The event will take place Sunday, January 20, 2008, at 5 p.m. The cost is \$3.50 per game and \$2.50 for shoes. Four Seasons Sports is located at 1745 DeKalb Ave. (Rt. 23) in Sycamore, 60178. Young Farmers events are open to members 35 years old and

younger. Please R.S.V.P. to Kane County Farm Bureau, 630-584-8660.



# 2008 Illinois Farmland Protection Conference

Openlands, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing public open space in northeastern Illinois, is sponsoring the 2008 Illinois Farmland Protection Conference Friday and Saturday, February 1 and 2, 2008 at Elgin Community College. Farmers, landowners, elected and appointed officials, citizens and agricultural profes-

sionals are encouraged to attend. There will be sessions available to everyone, including the opportunity to learn from case studies and practical examples from Illinois and other states. For reservation or questions, contact Lenore Beyer-Clow, Policy Director for Openlands, 312-863-6264 or lbeyer-clow@openlands.org.

## 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									
B Collins	*	X	X	X								
C. Collins	X	X	X	X								
B. Engel	X	X	X	X								
G. Feldott	X		X	X								
G. Gaitsch	X		X	X								
R. Gehrke	X	X	X	X								
M. Kenyon	X	X	X	X								
W. Kuipers	X	X		X								
D. Lehrer	X	X	X	X								
A Lenkaitis, Jr.	X		X									
M. Pitstick	X		X									
W. Schneider	X		X	X								
A. Volpp	X		X	X								
J. White	X	X	X	X								

\* Attending the Farm Bureau Leaders to Washington program

## Kane County Farmer KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Steven J. Arnold, Editor  
 Merry Pitstick, Executive Assistant  
 Suzi Myers, Ag Literacy Coordinator  
 Elizabeth Dawson, Membership Secretary  
 Tracy Windett, Information Director  
 Audre Pack, Training Specialist

OFFICE: Randall Rd. between Routes 64 & 38  
 Address: 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles • PHONE: 630-584-8660  
 info@kanecfb.com www.kanecfb.com

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday  
 (USPS No. 289700)  
 POSTMASTER: Mail form 3579 to  
 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, IL 60174  
 Second Class Postage • Paid to St. Charles, IL 60174  
 Year Subscription: \$2.00

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p>■ DISTRICT 1<br/>                 Aurora, Sugar Grove,<br/>                 Big Rock Twnshp.<br/> <b>Gene Feldott</b><br/>                 Rt. 3, Box 425<br/>                 Aurora, IL 60506<br/>                 630-892-2197<br/> <b>Mike Pitstick</b><br/>                 919 Abbey Ct.<br/>                 Sugar Grove, IL 60554<br/>                 630-878-3975<br/> <b>Donna Lehrer</b><br/>                 7S027 Jericho Road<br/>                 Big Rock, IL 60511<br/>                 630-556-3476</p> | <p><b>Joe White</b><br/>                 Secretary-Treasurer<br/>                 47W727 Main St. Rd.<br/>                 Elburn, IL 60119<br/>                 630-557-2517</p> <p>■ DISTRICT 3<br/>                 Virgil, Campton,<br/>                 St. Charles Twnshp.<br/> <b>Robert Biddle</b><br/>                 4N566 Whirlaway Dr.<br/>                 Elburn, IL 60119<br/>                 630-365-9374</p> <p><b>Chris Collins</b><br/>                 P.O. Box 62<br/>                 Wasco, IL 60183<br/>                 630-513-5833</p> <p>■ DISTRICT 2<br/>                 Kaneville, Blackberry,<br/>                 Gen./Bat. Twnshp.<br/> <b>Bill Collins</b><br/>                 1125 Lewis Road<br/>                 Geneva, IL 60134<br/>                 630-232-2043</p> <p><b>Wade Kuipers</b><br/>                 1N318 Watson Road<br/>                 Maple Park, IL 60151<br/>                 815-827-5200</p> | <p><b>Mike Kenyon</b><br/>                 Vice President<br/>                 1250 E. Main St.<br/>                 South Elgin, IL 60177<br/>                 847-741-1818</p> <p><b>Robert Gehrke</b><br/>                 President<br/>                 12N860 Route 20<br/>                 Elgin, IL 60123<br/>                 847-697-2538</p> <p>■ DISTRICT 5<br/>                 Hampshire, Rutland,<br/>                 Dundee Twnshp.<br/> <b>Beth Engel</b><br/>                 15N638 Walker Road<br/>                 Hampshire, IL 60140<br/>                 847-683-3482</p> <p><b>Gerald Gaitsch</b><br/>                 10613 Brittany Ave.<br/>                 Huntley, IL 60142<br/>                 847-669-2003</p> <p><b>Wayne Schneider</b><br/>                 402 S. 5th Street<br/>                 West Dundee, IL 60118<br/>                 847-428-3350</p> |
|---|--|---|



# WOMEN'S CORNER

By Louise Johnson  
Women's Committee Chair



## Happy new year!

I was in Chicago at the annual meeting of the Illinois Farm Bureau the first weekend of December. This is a very busy time of year, but I always enjoy attending as I find the speakers and mini-seminars very interesting and informative.

"You Can't Eat Ethanol" was the title of one of the mini-seminars. Some of the highlights were:

1. Demand for corn is at an all-time high, due partly to ethanol production. However, supply is keeping up with this demand: there is no shortage of corn.

2. There are ethanol plants coming online constantly, so there will be no shortage of ethanol.

3. The ethanol process removes only starch, not fat or protein. 'Distillers grains,' the residue after the starch portion is converted to ethanol, contains the protein, fat, other nutrients, vitamins and minerals from the corn. 'Distillers grains' is a highly valued product in world food and feed markets.

4. The overwhelming major-

ity of U.S. corn, including exports, feeds livestock – not humans. Livestock of developed, not undeveloped, countries use the majority of our corn exports. Ethanol use, therefore, will not contribute to global malnourishment.

5. Retail food products such as cereals, snack foods, and beverages sweetened with corn sweeteners contain very little corn. Therefore, fluctuations in the price of corn only slightly affects the retail prices for these items.

6. Higher global grain prices and the development of a world biofuels trade are allowing small farmers in many parts of the world to earn a profit on their crops for the first time in years.

7. One of the major oil companies is spending \$30 million to put out negative ads and 'information' columns about ethanol. Hmmm, no competition wanted?

Did any brave cooks make the vegetarian Pumpkin Lasagna from my November article? It is different, but very good. Call the Farm Bureau and let us know how you liked it.

## KANE COUNTY FARMER

The recipe came from California – need I say more?

I got the recipe below from Ginny whom I met at Norris Recreation Center on the day before Thanksgiving. Unfortunately the November paper was already out and it was ten days too late for my December article. She said that people who think they do not like sweet potatoes enjoy this casserole. The recipe sounds too good to wait for next fall's article.

### Sweet Potato and Squash Delight

6 sweet potatoes, washed, and wrapped in foil to eliminate mess when cooking

1 big butternut squash – big neck, so not as much seed section (Fork some holes in the vegetables so they do not burst while cooking!) Bake them on a cookie sheet until soft. Cool, peel and remove seeds. (You can wait until the next day before peeling, if desired.) Process them in a blender or food processor until smooth.

Half can unsweetened crushed pineapple, well drained  
2 heaping Tbsp. orange juice concentrate

Butter Buds®, as much as desired (You could use butter, but then you will have calories and fat.)

Mix all. Put as much as you want in a casserole, saving the rest. Heat before serving. You can freeze portions and enjoy this all winter.

# Engel recognized for volunteer service

Illinois Farm Bureau honored three volunteers with the 2007 Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Volunteer of the Year Award. The awards were presented December 2 at the IFB Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Beth Engel of Hampshire in Kane County was recognized for her personable, enthusiastic style that has helped teach more than 54,000 students about the importance of agriculture. As part of a dairy family, Engel works to make milk and dairy products personal and exciting to students. She has volunteered

to present lessons on dairy nutrition to fourth graders attending the Kane County Farm Bureau's AgDays program for 24 consecutive years.

Retired schoolteacher Violet Poling of DuPage County and Wabash Valley Service Company plant manager Mike Wilson were also for their AITC efforts.

"There are countless volunteers across the state helping us spread the message of agriculture and providing agricultural literacy," said Illinois Farm Bureau President Philip Nelson. "These three are among the finest."



Beth Engel of Hampshire was recognized for her Ag in the Classroom volunteer efforts at the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual meeting in Chicago December 1-4, 2007. She has helped to make dairy products personal and exciting to students.

## We need your help!

### The Women's Committee is once again asking for your help

Over 2000 Kane County fourth grade students will visit Mooseheart, March 18-20, as part of the Farm Bureau's 24th annual Ag Days program. Once again, we are looking for volunteers to help with this Women's Committee sponsored event.

During their visit to Mooseheart, students will hear a score of presentations on agricultural topics, see livestock and farm machinery and receive gift bags with farm-related lessons, activities and favors. This program requires dozens of volunteers to see that the events go smoothly.

Please consider being a part of this great tradition by volun-

teering your time (and perhaps in the process, learn something you did not know about agriculture). You need not volunteer every day, all day, but whenever you may be available. Contact the Farm Bureau today at 630-584-8660 for specific dates and times volunteers are needed.



#### Your help is needed during the following times:

#### Stuffing bags for Ag Days at the Farm Bureau (pizza will be provided)

Thursday, March 13 4:00-approx. 7:00 p.m.

#### Leading groups of students through exhibits at Mooseheart Fieldhouse

Tuesday, March 18 8:30 a.m.-approx. 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 19 8:30 a.m.-approx. 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 20 8:30 a.m.-approx. 2:00 p.m.

## Scavenger hunt winner announced



Congratulations to Beulah Swanson of Gilberts, who received a Thanksgiving Feast prepared by Canyon Creek Bar-B-Que in South Elgin. Beulah submitted her correct answers to the Kane County Farm Bureau Website Scavenger Hunt published in the November Farmer.

Beulah Swanson correctly answered the questions for the Scavenger Hunt in the November Farmer. She won a Thanksgiving feast from Canyon Creek Bar-B-Que in South Elgin.

### New uses for an old Christmas tree

If you do not want your Christmas tree memories to go up in smoke just yet, you can follow an old tradition of setting up your tree outside. Decorate it with different kinds of food for animals. Birds like strings of popcorn, dried cranberries, and apple slices. Seed balls and suet balls with seeds are also good treats.

You should not burn your whole Christmas tree in a fireplace. You can, however, cut up the tree and let the logs age for a year. They will be safe enough to use the next winter.

The one thing you should NOT do with the old tree is to burn it in the fireplace. A dry tree will burn with intense heat and may buckle a steel fireplace, crack a flue in a brick chimney, or start a chimney fire. If anything, use the small twigs from the tree for kindling.



# Wish you were getting patronage cash?



## We Can Help.

To show how much we value our loan and lease clients, we'll share \$3.35 million with them this year through our Patronage Program.

Don't be left out next year. If you wish you were getting patronage cash, talk to us today!

Sycamore  
1-800-766-3276



## A NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

By Tracy Windett



The end of 2007 brought an interesting opportunity for me to learn about the variety of career paths in agriculture. Toward the end of November, I had the chance to go to Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences with Donna and Natasha Lehrer for a fiber presentation.

Donna and Natasha are co-owners and operators of Esther's Place in Big Rock, a fiber art studio featuring wool, yarn, spinning, roving and other products. Donna and Natasha shared with an Animal Sciences

class the steps needed to take fibers from the animal to the workable material for artwork. Natasha showed the class how to needle felt. This was my first experience with needle felting as well, and we made felted flowers. First, we layered three different colors of wool fibers on top of each other, and we used special needles to poke through all of the layers. The needles had little teeth on the ends that would grab and twist the fibers together.

Everyone was concentrating hard, so there was not a whole lot

### KANE COUNTY FARMER

of talking. Because of the silence, it was easy to hear the needles going in and out of the fibers, a sort of soft tapping or tearing noise. Natasha demonstrated how to curl the edges of the petals to make the felt look more like a flower. The students enjoyed making the flowers and learning about fibers like wool and what they could do with the fibers.

Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences is a neat school. There, in the middle of Chicago, on West 111th Street, is a specialized agricultural high school, complete with chickens, goats, sheep, and cows. These animals provided a contrast between the agricultural atmosphere inside the school and the urbanized atmosphere outside the school's front doors. While there was a separate living area for the livestock, two cats could roam around the classroom. Just

like typical cats, they were interested in playing with the wool the Lehrers brought with them!

The Animal Sciences class had sheared the resident sheep at the school, and they sent the wool off to be cleaned. The class is waiting for the wool to be shipped back. Natasha and Donna shared ideas for how the students could use the fibers. They are looking forward to creating projects with the wool. Some other projects at the school involve growing coral

JANUARY 2008

and using the byproducts of their tilapia fish to fertilize a water garden of herbs.

One of my resolutions for 2008 is to participate in more great learning opportunities of all kinds. For those of you making your own resolutions for the New Year, pick one and stick with it. I read somewhere that it takes 20 to 30 days to make or break a habit. By February, the habit should be made or broken. If not, try for March!

Natasha Lehrer demonstrates needle felting to the Animal Sciences class at Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences. This is done by layering wool fibers together and using a special needle to grab and twist the fibers.



## 2008 private GM offer to FB members

Beginning January 4, 2008, new members who join the Farm Bureau will be eligible for a GM discount after a six-month paid-membership waiting period. Any new members who pay their Farm Bureau dues before January 1, 2008 according to the IAA Membership Records system will still qualify for the thirty-day requirement. These

members will be eligible for the offer on February 1, 2008.

General Motors (GM) will provide a \$500 private offer toward the purchase or lease of most new GM vehicles to eligible state Farm Bureau members. A \$750 private offer is available toward the purchase or lease of a new GM E85 FlexFuel vehicle. To learn about E85 and find an E85 sta-

tion near you, visit [www.livegreengoyellow.com](http://www.livegreengoyellow.com).

This private offer for eligible Illinois Farm Bureau members is available through January 2, 2009. To redeem this offer, you will need to provide an authorization number for the GM dealer. To obtain the authorization number, as well as GM's vehicle lineup, support and other essential information, visit [www.gmfleet.com/ilfb](http://www.gmfleet.com/ilfb).



## Local Kaneland FFA members receive State FFA degree

Kaneland FFA Seniors Sarah Carson, Katherine Fabrizio and Holly Hartmann recently earned the State FFA Degrees in 2007. Sarah, Katherine and Holly are seniors and have been active members in the FFA for the past three years. Their advisor is Laura Widhalm.

They met the following requirements in order to obtain this honor. The requirements for the degree are spelled out in the FFA Constitution, but include such things as working at least 750 hours in a Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) or earning at least \$1,500; participating in five activities above the chapter level; and having a GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4-point scale. Another

requirement is to hold the Chapter FFA degree. In the state of Illinois this year, 320 FFA members received this degree.

Sarah Carson has Supervised Agricultural Experience in the area of Beef Production Entrepreneurship, which means she raises and markets steers for beef. Sarah has shown cattle in 4H since she was 8 years old and started keeping FFA records on her cattle during her freshman year. She works on her cattle year-round, choosing weaned calves in the fall, break-

ing them to halter and attending shows throughout the year. In late summer or fall, she sells the market-ready steers and starts over again with new calves. Sarah had Grand Champion Steer and Champion Pair of Steers at the Section 6 FFA

Agriculture Education. Katherine has shown swine in 4H since she was nine years old and started keeping her FFA record books her freshman year. Additionally, she has worked for the past two summers at the Kane County Farm Bureau under the supervision of Steven Arnold. Katherine is the FFA Chapter vice president for the second year. Katherine also participated in section and district proficiency awards. At that time, Katherine interviewed with judges and discussed the components of her record book. After winning at the District level, she moved on to the State Awards Day. It was a great experience for Katherine as she participated at the State level against other FFA members from around the state. She placed 3rd and will compete again this year.

Holly Hartmann has participated in the Supervised Agricultural Experience for the past three years. Her SAE is in the area of Swine Production Entrepreneurship, which means she raises and markets hogs for pork. This project was based on her involvement with showing, raising and selling show pigs. Holly's continued growth in this project has helped her achieve some of her goals in the show ring and provided her the income needed to pay for college.



From left, Sarah Carson, Katherine Fabrizio and Holly Hartman of the Kaneland FFA Chapter received their State FFA Degree. Requirements for this degree include working at least 750 hours in a Supervised Agriculture Experience or earning at least \$1,500, participating in five activities above the chapter level, and having a GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4-point scale.

Show this past summer. Sarah also helps with breeding, calving and healthcare for the cows and calves on her family's farm. Sarah has been president of the Kaneland FFA Chapter for the past two years. She has competed in proficiency awards, land use, floral design, and livestock judging contests and attended National Convention three times.

Katherine Fabrizio keeps a Supervised Agricultural Experience Record Book in the areas of Swine Production and



A sampling of the fiber arts products produced by the artisans who take classes at Esther's Place in Big Rock. Donna and Natasha Lehrer are co-owners and operators of Esther's Place, a fiber arts studio featuring wool, yarn, spinning and roving. Classes are offered to the public and involve learning how to needle felt special crafts.

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

**farmdirectBLACKANGUS.com**

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

Mark & Linda Schramer, Owners  
8N840 Lakin Road, Maple Park  
815.895.4691 • 1-877-FOR-FDBA

**Sample Packs make great gifts!**

**Cleaner Engines,  
Better Performance**

**AkroGold**  
High Detergent Gasoline

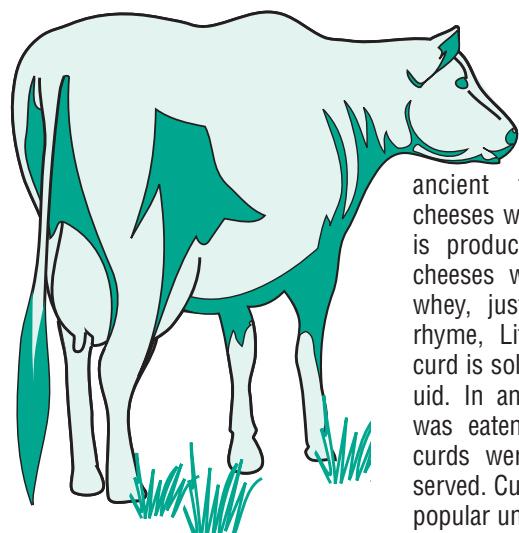
Available Exclusively at Conserv FS, Inc.  
(800)924-9942 • [www.conservfs.com](http://www.conservfs.com)

**Happy New Year**  
from the Kane County Farm Bureau



# Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Beth Dawson and Tracy Windett



Cheese is a dairy product made when milk is coagulated. The milk usually comes from cows, but sheep and goats also produce the milk used to make some cheeses. Buffaloes' milk makes real mozzarella cheese!

## Say Cheese!

The first cheeses were discovered in ancient times. These early cheeses were different than what is produced today. These first cheeses were called curds and whey, just like in the nursery rhyme, Little Miss Muffet. The curd is solid, and the whey is liquid. In ancient times, the whey was eaten right away, and the curds were seasoned and preserved. Curds and whey were still popular until about 50 years ago.

The first step in making all natural cheese is to let milk coagulate into curds and whey. Anyone who has left milk unrefrigerated for a while knows that milk curdles naturally. After the milk sours, it turns into an acid curd. Milk used to make

cheese today is helped to curdle with the addition of a lactic acid starter and rennet, which speeds up the curdling process. Some starters work better with heat and are used with cheeses that are cooked, like Swiss and Italian cheeses. Other starters work at room-temperatures, and these are used for cheeses like Cheddar and Gouda.

The simplest and most basic form of cheese are soft cheeses. Soft cheeses like Cottage Cheese are made by warming milk and letting it stand, and then treating it with a lactic acid starter and draining the whey from the cheese. This type of cheese is best salted and eaten fresh. Farmers Cheese is another great example of a soft cheese.

## Get your daily dose of dairy

- Cheese is a great addition to a healthy-eating lifestyle. There are some easy and delicious ways to make your meals dairy friendly!
- Add two slices of low-fat American cheese to a tuna sandwich.
- Combine 1 cup of plain yogurt, 1/4 cup of shredded Cheddar cheese and taco seasoning to make a delicious dip.
- Melt one or two slices of reduced fat Swiss over lean ham and an English muffin.
- Mix Monterey Jack cheese with chili to make a cheesy dip for tortilla chips.

• Bake your favorite fish in the oven after coating them in a Parmesan and bread crumb mixture.

• Serving sliced apples or pears with a small wedge of Cheddar cheese is a yummy combination.

Note: *There are several cheeses that contain very little amounts of lactose, or the sugar in milk, and some cheeses don't contain any lactose. These cheeses are aged cheeses like Cheddar and Swiss, and they are safe for people with lactose intolerance.*

## There's nothing cheesy about it!

There are more than 400 different varieties of cheese in the world! Cheeses are sorted by natural and process cheeses, unripened and ripened cheeses, and soft and hard cheeses.

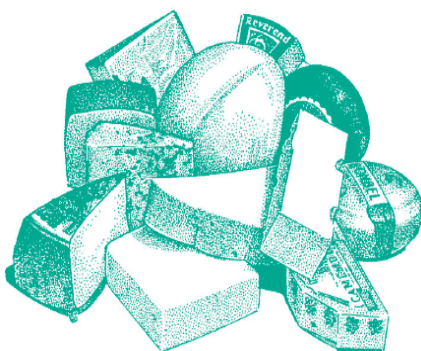
Natural cheese can be either ripened or unripened. Unripened cheeses are made by curdling milk proteins with acid. Some of these cheeses are cream cheese, cottage cheese, and Neufchatel.

Ripened cheeses are made by curdling milk proteins with enzymes and culture acids. Ripened cheeses then are aged,

or ripened, with bacteria or mold. These cheeses include Cheddar, Swiss, Colby and

Parmesan.

The amount of moisture in a cheese makes the cheese either soft or hard, with soft cheeses having more moisture. Some soft cheeses are Brie, Ricotta and Camembert. Hard cheeses include Cheddar, Colby, Gouda and Swiss. Parmesan and Romano are considered very hard cheeses. Process cheeses are a blending of one or more natural cheeses and emulsifying salts are added. American cheese is a process cheese.



## Cheese by the numbers

- It takes about 10 pounds, or 5 quarts, of milk to make 1 pound of whole milk cheese.
- Four ounces equals 1 cup of shredded cheese, and 3 ounces equals 1 cup grated cheese.
- Monterey Jack cheese is a descendent of a cheese produced in Californian missions over 200 years ago.
- If mold develops on the cheese, remove the mold you can see and remove an additional 1/2

inch of cheese all around where the mold had been to be safe.

• Cheese should always be served at room temperature, so you should remove it from the fridge 1 or 2 hours before serving.

• Cheese is made from pasteurized milk in the United States, and if unpasteurized milk is used, the government requires the milk to be aged for at least 60 days before it can be sold to the public.

## Make your own Farmers Cheese

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 gallon (8 cups) skim milk
- 1 cup dried skim milk powder (Carnation Instant)
- 1/4 cup lemon juice or white vinegar
- Optional seasonings to taste
- Cheese cloth

Heat up skim milk on the stove. Mix in the skim milk powder. As the mixture begins to simmer or boil, begin to add a little of the vinegar or lemon juice. Stir well. Keep the flame on and

keep adding and stirring until the milk solids completely separate from the whey. The whey is the yellow watery part. The amounts of heat and acidity have to be in balance for this to work. Drain the mixture in cheesecloth. You may use this cheese as you would cooked burger meat. For instance, flavor it and stuff green peppers with it. You might want to flavor it, while still in the milk state, with salt, pepper and herbs. This will be a soft cheese, much like cottage cheese.

## Congrats!

Congratulations to Jill Swanson of St. Charles. Her name was drawn from the entries received for correctly completing last month's word search. For Jill's participation, she will receive two movie tickets. Thank you for reading the *Kane County Farmer*, and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau!

## Whey cool word search!

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

AMERICAN  
 ASIAGO  
 BLUE  
 BRIE  
 CAMEMBERT  
 CHEDDAR  
 CHEESE  
 COLBYJACK  
 COTTAGE  
 CREAM  
 CURD  
 FARMER  
 FETA  
 FONTINA  
 GORGONZOLA  
 GOUDA  
 HAVARTI  
 MONTEREYJACK  
 MOZZARELLA  
 MUENSTER  
 NEUFCHATEL  
 PARMESAN  
 PEPPERJACK  
 PROVOLONE  
 RICOTTA  
 ROMANO  
 ROQUEFORT  
 STRING  
 SWISS  
 WHEY

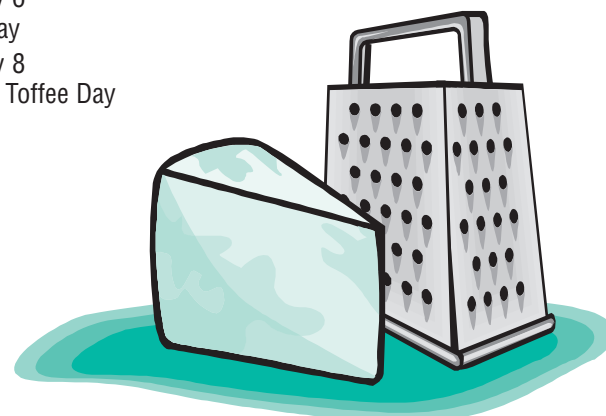
## January is:

- National Egg Month
- National Hot Tea Month
- National Oatmeal Month
- National Soup Month
- January 1  
Apple Gifting Day
- January 2  
National Cream Puff Day
- January 3  
Chocolate-Filled Cherry Day
- January 4  
National Spaghetti Day
- January 6  
Bean Day
- January 8  
English Toffee Day

- January 15  
Strawberry Ice Cream Day
- January 19  
National Popcorn Day
- January 20  
National Cheese Lover's Day
- January 23  
National Rhubarb Pie Day
- January 24  
National Peanut Butter Day
- January 27  
Chocolate Cake Day

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 by January 13, 2008 for your chance to win a bag of Cinnamon Glazed Pecans!



# Help ag education SPROUT in the minds of 3rd graders

The Kane County Farm Bureau and Ag Literacy coordinator Suzi Meyers are excited to introduce a new opportunity to bring agriculture into classrooms this spring.

Through SPROUTS, or Spring Program of Reading Outreach to Urban Teachers and Students, volunteers will read a designated book about agriculture to third graders. The volunteer would leave a copy of the book with the class as well as a follow-up activity for the teacher to use.

SPROUTS will take place during a two to three day window in March. To make this program a success, we are now looking for volunteers to read to the students.

Kane County Farm Bureau will host an informational meeting for volunteers to review the book and learn tips for involving students in discussion on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at Salerno's in St. Charles. All members are invited. No

experience necessary.

Preliminary plans call for each volunteer to spend about 20 minutes in the classroom, reading and discussing a pre-selected book before leaving the classroom with a second book to help the school build its library of books about Agriculture.

SPROUTS will help to educate third grade students about agriculture, before they are invited to Kane County Farm Bureau's Ag Days as part of the 4th grade curriculum. In addition, the program will help spread the word about Ag in the Classroom resources, interest teachers in incorporating agriculture curriculum and create goodwill for the farming community. We hope you will join us to make this program a success.

For more information, send the form below to the Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road in St. Charles or call the office at (630) 584-8660.

## AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Meyers



Happy New Year! I hope 2008 will be a good year for all of you. With the New Year, many of us think of a different way to do things, embark on new ventures, or make resolutions to change something in the New Year. We do the same thing here at the Farm Bureau.

We are launching a new program this year to reach more students and their teachers. This program is called "SPROUTS" - Spring Program Reading Outreach to Urban Teachers and Students.

The idea behind SPROUTS

is that we will have volunteers go into a third grade classroom to read a book about agriculture. After the reading and some discussion with the students, the volunteer will leave behind a follow up lesson that the teacher might want to use with the students and an agricultural book for the classroom library.

Why am I telling you about this? I NEED VOLUNTEERS. I need third grade teachers who will allow us come into their classroom, but more importantly, I need volunteers that are willing to read the book to the

## Book of the Month

Our book of the month is brand new and has been patiently waited for by the agricultural community. The Super Soybean was written by Raymond Bial, an Illinois author, whom many of you know from his book The Corn Belt Harvest.

His new book tells all about the soybean, from how and where it grows to all the uses that have been found for it. Many know that George Washington Carver discovered many different uses for the peanut. A little known fact is that he also worked on finding uses for soybeans and

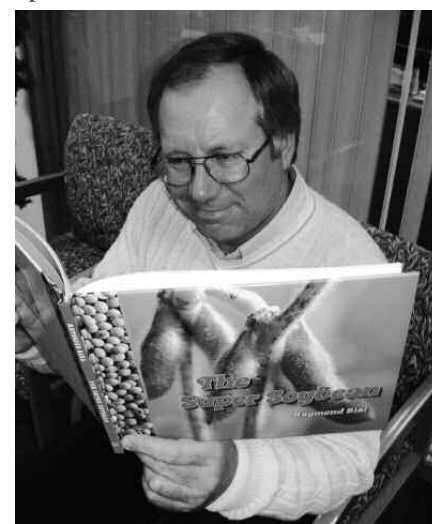
Local farmer and Kane DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Chairman Wayne Schneider of West Dundee stopped by the Kane County Farm Bureau and took a glance at the Kane County Farm Bureau library's newest edition, The Super Soybean. This book shows just how super the soybean is and the history of how it came to be that way.

discovers hundreds of them. "He encouraged farmers in the South to plant soybeans, along with peanuts and other legumes, to help keep the soil fertile so that cotton and other important crops could be successful." Through his work, along with the USDA, many different kinds of soybeans were developed. Soon soybeans became a major crop.

The book goes into the harvesting and production of the soybeans, using excellent photographs to help explain each step. It

discusses soy plastics, ink, soy biodiesel and many other products made from soybeans.

Come check this new and informative book out.



### Help make SPROUTS a success.

- \_\_\_ Please contact me to tell me more information.
  - \_\_\_ Please reserve a spot for me at the March 4 meeting.
  - \_\_\_ I'd like to volunteer to read to a classroom.
- (Please check all that apply)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and return to Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

Heartland, written by Diane Siebert and illustrated by Wendell Minor, will be considered as one of the books for the SPROUTS program. Volunteers will read the designated book to third grade students, and the volunteers will leave the book with the class. The volunteers will also leave follow-up lessons for the teachers to use with the book. Volunteers can learn more at an informational meeting for volunteers on March 4, 2008, at Salerno's in St. Charles.



## 2008 internship 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 science 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. Some of the

intern's responsibilities will be to promote and coordinate Ag-in-the-Classroom projects, assist with the planning of a week-long, graduate credit Summer Agricultural Institute for teachers, and assist with public relations efforts through newsletters press releases and other correspondence.

The intern will also develop grant requests to provide funding for the comprehensive Ag Ed program in Kane County, coordinate County Fair activities with volunteer committees, work with volunteers to update and enhance Ag-in-the-Classroom programs, and inventory educational materials.

The value of this internship is up to \$2500 to be paid at conclusion of internship for summer and up to \$750 for winter and \$300 for spring.

For more information, contact Steve Arnold, Executive Director 630-584-8660 or e-mail info@kanecfb.com. Applications are available online at www.kanecfb.com.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### FOR SALE

Large and small square hay bales and wheat straw for sale. Freezer Beef for sale, medication & hormone free, raised from crops grown on the farm. Call: 847-697-2538

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

House - Aurora, Jericho Rd near Orchard Rd, Sugar Grove Township, Kaneland Schools - 5.45 acres, 3 bedroom home, 2 baths, 2-car garage. \$425,000. Call Don Call: 630 466 0100

Firewood -seasoned oak \$90 a face cord, mixed hardwoods \$80 a face cord - 2 pick up caps measuring 76 x 62; one fiber glass (\$100) one work cap with three doors (\$225 ) OBO. Call: 847 652 6339 cell 847 695 6273 home

ATV Polaris Sportsman 400, low miles, excellent condition. Call: 847 344 4650

Pasture Board for your horse in St. Charles. 3 openings available, \$250 per horse per month. Organic grains feed 2x per day along with grass Hay. Located in the Campton Hills area. Close to the Campton Nature Trails. Contact Sara for more information. Call: 630 631 2746

Horse Logic - Certified riding instructor & trainer - Classical Dressage & Western - Beginners are always welcome - travel to your barn available, & a trip fee may apply. St. Charles, IL 60175. Call: 630 631 2746

Experienced Handyman - 24 years. Carpentry, electric, plumbing, drywall, tile - dependable, honest, fair - no job too small - 24 hr. service - Call Paul, 630 927 1204

### SERVICES

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

Dynamite Holistic Supplements. Human, Horse, Cat, Dog, Bird, & exotic animal supplements. All are holistic & human grade. No

artificial ingredients, & many ingredients are organic. For more information: www.dynamiteonline.com/saramckiness. Call: 630 631 2746

Remove Replenish Restore - Exceptional Nutritional Supplements for both people & animals - Be sure & check out the new Cellular Defense!!! For information go to: http://my.waiora.com/home.php?586103 or contact Sara at sara@horselogic.net Call: 630 631 2746

### WANTED

Donations of usable hand tools, fencing, shovels, buckets, folding chairs, etc. for day to day operations at Garfield Farm Museum. Free museum calendar of events available - Call: 630 584 8485

### 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.

# COUNTRY honors local agent

COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services donated \$1,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of Elgin in honor of David Kujawa of South Elgin, an agent who serves on the club's auxiliary board.

"COUNTRY cares about the communities in which we operate, and we're proud of our employee and agent volunteers," says Deanna Frautschi, executive vice president of Human Resources and Communications for COUNTRY. "COUNTRY was founded on the principle of people helping people. David's volunteerism is an inspiring example of how our people work to strengthen their communities."



David Kujawa

the organization's Community Service Award, a distinction created to recognize volunteers who go above and beyond in their volunteer activities.

The Boys & Girls Club of Elgin was established in November 1993 to provide alternative prevention programs for the area's at-risk youth. In 12 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Elgin has served more than 2,700 children through its membership and outreach efforts. Kujawa has volunteered with the club for four years and currently serves on the auxiliary board committee, which reviews all development activities. The largest portion of his time goes toward the Boys & Girls Club of Elgin

Duck Race, the club's largest fundraiser. This year, he served as co-chairman for the event, which directly funds programs for more than 100 at-risk youth who visit the club every week.

Kujawa is also a court-appointed special advocate (CASA) and guardian ad-Litem for abused and neglected children with the Kane County juvenile court system. In that role, he advocates on behalf of the children, lending one consistent voice throughout the juvenile court process.

A committee of people from different areas of COUNTRY selected Kujawa, an agent with the Schaumburg/Elgin agency.

Kujawa serves clients from his COUNTRY office at 1814 Grandstand Place, Elgin. The office phone number is (847) 742-0001.



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

By Beth Dawson

Why does my membership with the Kane County Farm Bureau matter? The Kane County Farm Bureau is an excellent organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for member families, promote all aspects of agriculture and advocate good stewardship of our land and resources. Farm Bureau advocates for a safe, healthy, nutritious and affordable food supply grown in a manner to safeguard the environment. The Farm Bureau offers both farmers and non-farmers over 50 ways to save money, allowing you the opportunity to recoup your initial investment plus much more.

For only \$37 for Farmer Members and \$20 for Associate Members, your basic benefit package includes our monthly publication, *Kane County Farmer* and either FarmWeek (voting-weekly) or Partners (non-voting-quarterly).

Members are also eligible for discounts on the following products and services: COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services, Vision eye care, two prescription services PharmaCare and ScriptSave, Beltone hearing aids, agricultural products, movie and

amusement tickets, Grainger Industrial products, Sherwin-Williams products, and hotel and car rentals to name a few.

Other benefits include access to the IAA Credit Union; recycling programs, soil testing, CDL Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium, internships, defensive driving courses. We also sell soy candles, burger, pork chops, chicken breasts, steaks, and have monthly specials in the Kane County Farm Bureau office.

Membership in the Kane County Farm Bureau means different thing to different people. For a Kane County farmer, the organization means legislative support and representation on issues that impact their economic well-being and bottom line. It can assist farmers through leadership opportunities, marketing advice and education that improve the quality of farm family life.

To associate members, it can serve as a source of information, product savings, and a safe food supply. Issues such as ground water protection and education are affecting all members of the organization. Membership means value for all members.

## KCFB scholarship applications accepted

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation has announced it is offering several scholarships to members or dependents of members who wish to pursue higher education in an agricultural related field. Last year, the Foundation awarded 15 scholarship worth nearly \$25,000.

To be eligible for a Kane County Farm Bureau general scholarship, the member or dependent must have been a member in good standing for two years. The student must also be planning an agriculture related career. A brochure is available to assist students in identifying those careers and areas of study.

To obtain an application for the scholarship, please stop at the Kane County Farm Bureau office at 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles or call 630-584-8660. Applications are also on the Kane County Farm Bureau website, [www.kanecfb.com](http://www.kanecfb.com). The deadline for the scholarship is February 15, 2008.

## 1st FCS accepting scholarship applications

Scholarship applications are now available for the 1st Farm Credit Services "At the Heart of a Growing America" Agricultural Scholarship Program. This scholarship is available to High School seniors.

Applications will be judged by a panel of independent agribusiness, education, youth and farm organization leaders.

Applications are due by February 15, 2008. From applications or more information, visit your local 1st Farm Credit Services office, or go online to [www.usfarmcredit.com/AboutUs/1st/Scholarships.asp](http://www.usfarmcredit.com/AboutUs/1st/Scholarships.asp).

Up to 23 individual \$1,000 scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors who have been accepted into an

agriculture or agriculture-related curriculum at a university, college or community college and either reside or attend high school within 1st Farm Credit Services territory.

## Ag scholarship honors John Deere dealer

Agriculture and golf were John Buck's passions. Therefore, it was only fitting that, after his death from cancer in 2001, his family and friends would keep his legacy alive by offering educational scholarships in those fields. Buck was the founder of Buck Brothers, Inc. and J.W. Turf, both of Hampshire, dealers and distributors of John Deere farm equipment and golf course maintenance equipment, respectively.

Foundation. An endowment to the Foundation, supplemented by an annual John Buck Memorial Open golf outing, provides funds for \$1000 scholarships for higher education for agriculture students. Any student in Kane, DeKalb, McHenry, Boone, Lake, DuPage or Will County is eligible to apply. A similar scholarship program has been established by the family through the Midwest Golf Course Superintendent's Association.

Late in 2001, the family of John Buck established the John Buck Memorial Scholarship for agriculture students through the Kane County Farm Bureau

Katie Stoll of Elgin was named the John Buck Memorial Scholarship recipient in the spring of 2007. Stoll used the

\$1000 award to study Animal Science/Pre-Vet at the University of Illinois.

Applications are now being accepted for the John Buck Memorial Scholarship for the 2007-08 school year. Applications are available through local county Farm Bureau offices, at Buck Brothers, Inc. or J.W. Turf in Hampshire, or by contacting Steve Arnold, Executive Director of the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, at 630-584-8660 or via the Farm Bureau website at [www.kanecfb.com](http://www.kanecfb.com). Application deadline is February 15, 2008.

## What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

### St. Charles Agency, Richard Bristow, Agency Manager

Calin Marchis has been named Agent of the Month for November 2007 in the St. Charles Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Richard Bristow. Calin has been an agent with COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services since July 2004. He serves his clients from his office at 151 E. State Route 38, Unit C in Elburn. You may reach him at (630) 365-9512.

### Agency Manager

Jim McGuigan has been named Agent of the Month for November 2007 in the Aurora Agency. Jim began his career with COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services in December 2002. He serves his clients from his office at 444 Eola Road, Suite 101, Aurora, 60502. You may reach Jim at (630) 851-0620.

### Elgin/Schaumburg Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager

Gary Bolger has been named "Career Agent of the Month" for November 2007. Gary has

been an agent with COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services since July 2003. His office is located at 1814 Grandstand Place, Elgin, 60123. His phone number is (847) 742-0001.

Kathy Fester has been named "Employee Agent of the Month" for November 2007. Kathy has been an agent with COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services since November 2006. Her office is located at 1814 Grandstand Place, Elgin, 60123. Her phone number is (847) 742-0001.

## Recruiter of the Month

Each month, Kane County Farm Bureau honors the person or persons who sign the most members into our organization. This month we would like to congratulate Donna Tonovitz. She has signed 13 new members to be named top recruiter for November 2007.

Donna has been an agent with COUNTRY's St. Charles Agency since July 2004. Donna serves clients from her office located at 40W099 Rt. 64 Unit C Wasco, 60175. You may reach Donna at 630-587-7440.

As a token of our apprecia-

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



Donna Tonovitz

## GROWMARK reveals 2008 FFA essay contest

GROWMARK and participating FS member cooperatives are sponsoring the 15th annual essay contest for FFA members. The contest is offered to high school FFA members in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin.

The theme for the contest is "Understanding Cooperatives," and the focus of the essay should be on the ownership and operation of cooperatives and the benefits they provide. Writers should identify an FS or other co-op that does business in the community and interview and employee or director from that co-op. Cooperative history, ownership and control, and benefits to members are the key points to focus on in the essay. The goals of the contest are to develop writing skills, to increase understanding of a current issue in agriculture, and to increase understanding of the unique role of cooperatives.

a \$500 scholarship and a plaque award. The FFA Chapter of the State winner will receive a \$300 monetary award for the purchase of something to help future students and honor the winner's accomplishment. There will be four runners-up, and each of them will receive a \$125 scholarship and plaque award. All of the awards will be presented at the 2008 State FFA convention. Winners do not need to be present to receive their awards.

Essays should be approximately 500 words, typed and double-spaced. A title page is also required for each entry, and the appropriate title page can be found at [www.growmark.com/gmksyst/ffa/procedures.htm](http://www.growmark.com/gmksyst/ffa/procedures.htm). Entries from Illinois FFA members need to be postmarked by March 8, 2008. For more details, visit [www.growmark.com](http://www.growmark.com).

The state winner will receive



# Make a resolution to help the Kane County FB Foundation

Tickets are still available for the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's Tractor Raffle!

Proceeds from the raffle benefit Foundation College Scholarships and Farm Bureau Agricultural Literacy programs. In 2007, the Foundation award-

ed nearly \$25,000 in scholarships to help send 15 local students to college!

This year's "Winner's Choice" Tractor Raffle prizes are a choice of a 1952 John Deere Model B, a NEW Cub Cadet LT 1046 Lawn Tractor or

\$2,500 in cold hard cash. Second prize is a Cub Cadet model 989 21" 5 hp walk behind mower.

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 tickets for \$25. The tickets are available in the Kane County Farm Bureau office, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, from Farm Bureau directors listed on page 2 or by returning the form below. We will hold tickets for you in our office. The drawing will be held March 29 at Kane County Farm Bureau's third annual Touch-A-Tractor Open

House.

For more information on the raffle, Scholarship programs or

other Foundation programs and services, contact Steve Arnold at 630 584-8660.

*The winning ticket holder will have the choice between a 1952 John Deere Model B, a new Cub Cadet LT 1046 Lawn Tractor or \$2,500 cash. The second prize is a Cub Cadet model 989 21" 5 hp walk behind mower. The drawing will be held on March 29, 2008, during the Kane County Farm Bureau's Touch-A-Tractor event.*

*Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Tickets are available in the Kane County Farm Bureau office, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles. You may stop in the office to pick up your tickets, or you may fill out the order form and mail to the Farm Bureau office. We will hold the tickets for you in the office.*



Kane County Farm Bureau for members affected by the regulation. For your convenience, it is reproduced here with our apologies.

If you have questions about the applicability of this requirement to your farming operation, please give us a call at 630 584-8660 and ask for Steve or Merry.



Our December *Farmer* carried information on the U.S.DOT requirement for random drug and alcohol testing, but we forgot to include an enrollment application for the Consortium organized by

## Consortium Enrollment Application 2008 Kane County Farm Bureau Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Program

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Farm Bureau Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 For Setup Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prescription Medicine Name or Names \_\_\_\_\_  
 Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 CDL License Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pool participation price: \$110 per driver for fixed location testing, \$130 per driver for on-site testing. All pool participants must be an "MM" or "A" member of the Kane County Farm Bureau. The program will run from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.  
 Make checks payable to: Kane County Farm Bureau and return by January 15, 2008.

Drop off check or mail to: Kane County Farm Bureau  
2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174

I understand that the fee includes my name in the Kane County Farm Bureau pool to cover the random drug and alcohol testing requirement including the setup fee and the random alcohol confirmation test as mandated by the U. S. Department of Transportation. I further understand that non-random tests such as reasonable suspicion return to work follow-ups, missed appointments, after hours charges, and post-accidents tests are not covered by the pool money and those charges will be my responsibility.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_



The toddler tantrum downstairs answered why my computer screen turned black upstairs. The power was out. My 2-year-old daughter blamed Dad for turning off her show.

We calmed her down with penguin juice, also known as orange juice with a Christmas penguin on the carton. We explained that the TV wouldn't work. Nor would the light switch. Hand washing involves baby wipes, and toilet flushing is limited.

There is no reasoning with a toddler. She pushed the power button on the TV. She wanted the light to brighten the room from the cloudy daytime sky. She preferred baked chicken nuggets for lunch. And she wanted to help

Mom at the kitchen sink. The only water she could draw was what was left in the pipes.

"We live in the country," I explained. "When the power goes out, the sink and bathtub do not work." I lost her focused attention after that, but continued. You see, water out here is from a well. And it takes electricity to pump water from that well, unless you have an outdoor hand-pumping hydrant like great uncle Mike. You can't clean or cook without water. And definitely don't flush unless it's brown. We have one flush left per toilet with the water left in the tank, meaning two in our house.

She made sure we were a flush down in the first hour.

We prepare for power outages if the weather conditions create the potential. That day was free of snow, ice, wind and driving rain so we were caught with dirty laundry and wrinkled church clothes.

Since that outage, we had a forecasted ice storm. I filled the bathtub with water so that we

could use a bucket of water from that to fill the toilet tanks for flushing. We bumped up the thermostat two degrees to warm the old farmhouse.

I washed dishes leftover from last night's meatballs, laundered a load of whites, washed the dust from the glass of the kerosene lamp, and cleaned romaine lettuce, carrots and apples for a meal. We bathed and brushed our teeth.

By then, we were prepared for some powerless hours. I secretly wanted a cold candlelight dinner for the thrill of it. The Christmas lights only flicked a few times and once stayed off long enough to make the digital clocks blink.

The next morning, I drained the bathtub and remembered the fun of power outages as a school-aged kid. Mom lit Great Grandma's glass-shaded kerosene lamp only when the power was out. We played pitch and ate finger foods. We also reminded every bathroom-bound relative not to flush, unless necessary.

## KCFB offers Canadian Rockies by Rail

The Kane County Farm Bureau would like to announce our next tour – Canadian Rockies by Rail. This exciting 10-day trip is August 25-September 3, 2008. Features of this tour include British Columbia, Vancouver, Victoria, Kamloops, Jasper, Columbia Icefields, Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary.

The highlight of your tour of Western Canada will be a two-day journey from Vancouver to Jasper aboard the award-winning Rocky Mountaineer® Train, known as "the most spectacular train trip in the world." Cutting right through the heart of the Rocky Mountain region, you'll marvel at incredible scenery including jagged mountain peaks, rushing rivers and thick stretches of undisturbed green woodlands. Watch all the dramat-

ic scenery unfold, right before your eyes, as you travel on the Rocky Mountaineer Train® during the day. Aboard the train, enjoy comfortable seating, air-conditioning, wide picture windows and gourmet dining. You will also enjoy an overnight stop in the charming city of Kamloops, British Columbia. Join us on the road less traveled and experience the beauty of Western Canada.

See the glaciers of the Albreda Icefields and view Mt. Robson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies. Stand on the amazing 1,000-foot thick Athabasca Glacier during an exciting Glacier Experience excursion at the Columbia Icefields. Overnight at the magnificent Fairmont Banff Springs

Hotel, nicknamed the "Castle in the Mountains."

Per person rates for this tour are \$3,799 double, \$4,949 single, and \$3,749 triple. Rates include round trip air from O'Hare, air taxes and fees/surcharges of \$75 (subject to increase until paid in full), hotel transfers and 15 meals. Not included in price are cancellation waiver and insurance of \$235 per person.

If you are interested in learning more about this fantastic trip, there will be a preview meeting at the Kane County Farm Bureau office on Monday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m. To reserve your spot for this meeting or for more information, contact Merry Pitstick at (630) 584-8660.

Join our preview meeting  
at the Kane County  
Farm Bureau office on  
Monday, Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

## Private well testing program offered in February

The Kane County Farm Bureau and Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District are cooperating again to offer a water testing program in February 2008. A high quality water supply is vital for families, and this program helps provide peace of mind and identifies potential problem areas for homeowners of Kane County.

The program works simply as follows:

**Step 1.** Monday, February 11 – Friday, February 22, 2008  
Pick up water test kits from

the Kane County Farm Bureau, 8:30-5:00 p.m. or from the Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District, 8:00-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Payment is due for each test kit at this time.

**Step 2.** Sunday, February 24, 2008

Collect the water sample.

**Step 3.** Monday, February 25, 2008

Return the water sample to the Farm Bureau or Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District.

Costs vary for the program depending on which tests you wish to have performed on your water. Three different kits are available:

**A. Basic Package (Nitrate Package) - \$45.00**

The basic package tests for nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, chloride, sulfate, soluble phosphorus, silica and specific conductivity.

**B. Pesticide Screen – 70.00**

A pesticide screen will indicate the presence of triazine herbicides, lasso, dual or harness.

**C. Volatile Organic Chemicals – \$75.00**

The third kit tests for 46 different volatile organic chemicals.

**D. Metals – \$90.00**

The fourth kit tests for 23 different metals and costs.

More detailed sampling instructions will be included in each kit, and additional information on how each test can help you is provided at the Farm Bureau or Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation's

District offices. Testing will be performed by Heidelberg College Water Quality Laboratory in Tiffin, Ohio, a certified lab that has been nationally recognized for its work in testing rivers and lakes. We are able to provide these deeply discounted testing fees because we are providing the laboratory a bulk number to be tested. Please call the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 if you would like additional information or have any questions.