Healthy, nutritious milk to food to the Food Bank each year” said Ericson, “and the thousands of dollars worth of sponsors, “Jew el donates tens of millions of groceries, with the help of Mary Graziano from the FISH Food Pantry. Sobek collected $945 in non-perishable items, assisted by Diane Renner of the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry. During pre-event announcements, Steve Ericson, Director of Food Procurement for the Northern Illinois Food Bank lauded the efforts of the co-sponsors, “Jewel donates tens of thousands of dollar worth of food to the Food Bank each year” said Ericson, “and the Farm Bureau and its members, through their Harvest for ALL program, provide the much needed support for the Milk 2 My Plate program, providing healthy, nutritious milk to clinics and local food pantries.” KCFB Manager Steve Arnold thanked Jewel Store Director Gus Eliopoulos for the store’s 16 years of support for the event. He told that crowd gathered for the event that the Shopping Spree had raised nearly $29,000 for hunger relief and that the Farm Bureau’s Harvest for ALL hunger relief effort had contributed the equivalent of 1.75 million meals to local food pantries since 2009. The event is traditionally held during February and is devoted to hunger relief, while teaching consumers how to stretch their grocery dollars with healthy, nutritious food. U.S. farmers are the most productive and efficient food producers in the world, food is a real bargain in the U.S. when compared to the rest of the world, but the shopping spree recognizes the fact that for many people, their resources are stretched to the limit. Each year, the “Challenge” allows two food pantries to stock their shelves with much needed items. Special thanks to JEWEL-Osco and the Northern Illinois Food Bank for their partnership in this activity, sponsored by the KCFB PR Committee.

Senator Castro, President Sobek pile up $1,969 in food for pantries
Farm Bureau’s 16th Annual Shopping Spree donates thousands of dollars in food

Twenty-second District State Senator Cristina Castro and Waubonsee Community College President Dr. Christine Sobek raced through the aisles of the Batavia Jewel Osco in the 16th annual Food Check-Out Challenge Shopping Spree to benefit local food pantries. During their 7.5-minute dash the pair collected $1,969 in groceries, purchased by the Farm Bureau and donated to the FISH Pantry in Carpentersville and the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry in Aurora. Castro gathered $1,024 worth of groceries, with the help of Mary Graziano from the FISH Food Pantry. Sobek collected $945 in non-perishable items, assisted by Diane Renner of the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry. During pre-event announcements, Steve Ericson, Director of Food Procurement for the Northern Illinois Food Bank lauded the efforts of the co-sponsors, “Jewel donates tens of thousands of dollar worth of food to the Food Bank each year” said Ericson, “and the Farm Bureau and its members, through their Harvest for ALL program, provide the much needed support for the Milk 2 My Plate program, providing healthy, nutritious milk to clinics and local food pantries.” KCFB Manager Steve Arnold thanked Jewel Store Director Gus Eliopoulos for the store’s 16 years of support for the event. He told that crowd gathered for the event that the Shopping Spree had raised nearly $29,000 for hunger relief and that the Farm Bureau’s Harvest for ALL hunger relief effort had contributed the equivalent of 1.75 million meals to local food pantries since 2009. The event is traditionally held during February and is devoted to hunger relief, while teaching consumers how to stretch their grocery dollars with healthy, nutritious food. U.S. farmers are the most productive and efficient food producers in the world, food is a real bargain in the U.S. when compared to the rest of the world, but the shopping spree recognizes the fact that for many people, their resources are stretched to the limit. Each year, the “Challenge” allows two food pantries to stock their shelves with much needed items. Special thanks to JEWEL-Osco and the Northern Illinois Food Bank for their partnership in this activity, sponsored by the KCFB PR Committee.

**Touch-A-Tractor: Join us for farm, family & fun**

Kane County is a unique county that is home to both rural and suburban landscapes. What we have here is not all that common, the ability to travel from a highly populated shopping center to a farmstead surrounded by cornfields in 10 minutes.

Kane County Farm Bureau hosts Touch-A-Tractor to bring a little bit of the rural side of the county to the suburban side for a fun-filled 3 day weekend. Now in its 12th year, the farm-city event has grown in popularity each year. This family friendly event has a wide variety of activities for the entire family. Kids can sit in the seat of an antique tractor, see modern farm equipment, participate in hands-on activities, ride pedal tractors, shell corn, see farm animals, and enter for a FREE chance to win their very own pedal tractor.

From toddlers to teens, this event has something for everyone. Bring the entire family over to Kane County Farm Bureau on April 7-9 and see working tractors straight from a farm field, and meet the hard working farmers who drive them.

A $2 adult or $5 family donation for admission is requested at Touch-A-Tractor. Donations are used to fund Ag-in-the-Classroom and Scholar-ship programs of the not-for-profit KCFB Foundation. Attendees can show their Winner’s Choice Raffle ticket stub for FREE admission. Food, drinks, and snacks are available for purchase throughout the weekend. At the conclusion of the events on Sunday, April 9 the winning tickets will be drawn in the KCFB Foundation Winner’s Choice Tractor Raffle. If you’d like to bring an antique tractor or other farm equipment to Touch-A-Tractor, to add to the ambiance and enhance the learning environment for our city neighbors, please call the KCFB at 630-584-8660. Mark your calendars now. We hope to see you at Touch-A-Tractor.

**Hernomeade Corned Beef Brisket**

The special this month is a three-pound home -made corned beef brisket. Each brisket will come seasoned with the seasoning and includes the cooking instructions for your St. Patrick’s Day celebration. The Member price is $19.50, PLUS Members $17.50, and non-Members $22.50.

**Overstock Sale! While supplies last.**

Limited quantities of Illinois and Georgia Pecans, $6.00 per 16 oz bags. Available whole and pieces Chocolate Covered Pecans, 12 oz bags $7.00.

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**Kane County Farmer**

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
Farm, Family, Food.

Enhance the quality of life for member families; Promote agriculture, farms & food; and, Advocate good stewardship of our land and resources.

**Vol. 82 No. 3 March 2017**
The February meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors was called to order at 7:30 pm on February 2, 2017. President White gave his report, starting with a review of the CFBS Presidents meeting held January 31. White reported on the Pennsylvania legislative membership class of members and necessary bylaw changes, emphasis on legislative Action Request benchmarks, and a new IFB Horizon Award. A change in IFB on tax policy preferences was also discussed.

Arnold, gave a Managers report, providing an update on progress in remodeling the lobby space at the KCFB to provide additional room for farm toys, edible products and other commercial items offered by Farm Bureau to members and the public. The new “storefront” will be finished by early April.

B. Collins gave the PR & Membership Report. He informed the board of contributions to the CFBS Foundation during the previous month including: Harvest for All Contributions by: Dale & Linda Powers to NIFB, Mike My Milk Plate, William & Patricia Watson to NIFB, Alan & Gayle Vonlopp to Burlington/Hampton Food Pantry, Mike & Judy Klauder to NIFB – Milk 2 My Plate, John Van Bogaert to NIFB, Bill & Louise Cochrane to NIFB – Potato Pantry, Wayne Schneider to NIFB, and Craig & Angela Stivers to NIFB. Food Forward contributions by Bill & Karen Collins and Jay Schrock (in memory of Joel Schrock).

In the Government Affairs and Public Policy report, Schneider spoke with the Board about the latest Committee meeting, held January 23. Topics included the Shopping Spree on February 20, Lunches to Legislators. IFB’s Government Affairs Leadership Conference, and the Kane County Stormwater Technical Advisory Committee. For the Shopping Spree WCC President Christine Sobek will be raising funds for the Marie Wilkins Food Pantry and Senator Cristina Castro will be raising funds for the FISH pantry in Carpenterville.

A written Ag-in-the-Classroom report from Suzi Myers was circulated, which included an update on Ag Days. This event is scheduled for March 21-22 at Mooseheart, and the KCFB will need to purchase animals for Ag Days. The board also received updates from the Young Farmers Committee. This update informed the board that at their holiday party the Young Farmers raised $308 for medical expenses for farmers Nate & Brittany Hill. At the YFFA’s acquisition night at the Northern Illinois Food Bank, held on January 26th, 17 students from 2 FFA chapters participated. Committee members attended IFB Young Farmers Leadership Conference in East Peoria and currently 2 committee members plan to attend the Young Leaders Ag Industry tour to Ontario in July. The Young Farmers will host their District 1&5 Euchre Tournament on Friday, March 24th at 7PM. The next scheduled Kane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, March 2 at 7:30pm.

**KCFB Board Review**

**Hungry Americans benefit from Farm Bureau donations**

The farm and ranch families of Farm Bureau raised more than $1.1 million and donated a record of more than 24.9 million pounds of food to assist hungry Americans in 2016 as part of Farm Bureau’s “Harvest for ALL” program. Combined, the monetary and food donations reached a record level of the equivalent of more than 31 million meals.

Now in its 15th year, Harvest for ALL is spearheaded by members of Farm Bureau’s Young Farmers & Ranchers program, but Farm Bureau members of all ages from across the nation contributed to the effort. By heeding the call to action, they help ensure Americans need can enjoy the bounty of food farmers and ranchers produce.

In addition to raising food and funds for the initiative, farmers and ranchers tallied 9,067 volunteer hours assisting local hunger groups in 2016.

“Farm Bureau has a long tradition of helping provide nourishment for those who need it the most,” said Kalena Bruce, a Young Farmer from Missoula who chairs AFBF’s national YF&R committee. “More than 50 percent of Americans struggling with hunger live in rural areas and farming communities. We’re pleased to help families in our communities who are in need.”

*ALL Harvest for 2016 is on page 8 (continued on page 8)*

**Notice of Annual Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the 40th Annual Meeting of the Kane County Farm Bureau will be held at the Kane County Farm Bureau Building at 128 N Hadsall St., Genoa, IL 60135 on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 7:00 pm. for the purpose of receiving and acting upon reports of officers, the board of directors and management. The Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 4, 2017 and to (a) elect eight members to the Board of Directors on the basis of the voting power of the members as shown in an annual report of stockholders and the national organization committee to act with the power of the Board of Directors in the capacity of a management committee.

Michael Kenyon, Secretary

**Kane County Farmer**

**KANE COUNTY FARMER BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2017 THRU DECEMBER 2017**

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**KANE COUNTY FARMER BOARD ATTENDANCE JANUARY 2017 THRU DECEMBER 2017**

**PHONE:** 630-584-8660

**EMAIL:** info@kanecfb.com

**WEBSITE:** www.kanecfb.com

**OFFICE HOURS:** 8:30-4:30 Monday through Friday

**USPS No. 289700**

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Kane County Farmer 27710 Rd. St., Charles, IL 60147

**Publication Postage - Paid to St. Charles, IL 60164 Year Subscription: $2.00**

**DISTRICT 1**

- **Aurora, Sugar Grove, Big Rock Township.**
- **North:**
  - 11461 E. County Line Rd. St. Charles, IL 60174
  - 815-693-7214
  - Donna Lehner
  - 57007 Joliet Rd. Big Rock, IL 60011
  - 815-566-3478
  - William Keck
  - P.O. Box 281
  - Sugar Grove, IL 60554
  - 815-486-4900
  - Frank Carlson
  - 1143 Anderson Rd. Sugar Grove, IL 60554
  - 815-934-6442
  - Dale Pittsick
  - 128 W. Chicago Rd. Geneva, IL 60135
  - 815-934-0223
  - **DISTRICT 2**
  - **Kaneville, Blackberry, Genoa Township.**
  - **South:**
    - Bill Collins
    - 1901 Wixom Rd.
    - Geneva, IL 60134
    - 630-484-6862
  - Karl Kettakamp
  - 05860 Rode Rd.
  - Genoa, IL 60134

**DISTRICT 3**

- **Virgin, Campton, St. Charles Township.**
- **South:**
  - Frank Carlson
  - 104 Sunrise Court
  - St. Charles, IL 60174
  - 630-513-0980
  - Chris Collins
  - 721 Lindsay Lane
  - Elgin, IL 60123

**DISTRICT 4**

- **Burlington, Plato Township.**
- **Elgin Township.**
- Beth Gehre
- 1296 Nichols Rd. St. Charles, IL 60174
- 847-914-4128
-Mike Kenyon
- Secretary/Treasurer
- 1250 E. Main St.
- South Elgin, IL 60177
- 847-741-1818
- Craig Bradley
- 3779W1 Orchard Lane
- Elgin, IL 60124
- 847-888-2380
- **DISTRICT 5**
- **Hampshire, Ruddle, Dundee Township.**
- **South:**
  - John Engel
  - 516 Sawgrass Lane
  - Hampshire, IL 60140
  - 847-347-5561
  - Gerald Galtich
  - 1013 Brittany Lane
  - Huntley, IL 60142
  - 847-669-0508
  - Wayne Schneider
  - Vice President
  - 721 Lindsay Lane
  - West Dundee, IL 60120
  - 847-428-0488

**Sample Packs make great gifts!**
Defensive Driving Class

The Kane County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee has scheduled a 55 Alive Mature Driving Program for Tuesday and Wednesday, April 25 and 26. The class runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles. You must attend both sessions to complete the course.

The eight hour course covers driving in various road and weather conditions, passing techniques, the effects of alcohol and drugs on driving and other defensive driving methods. Many insurance companies may offer a discount on auto insurance to those age 55 and older who qualify and attend all eight hours of the course. Contact your insurance agent for more details.

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

IATC coordinators gain insights, tools for now and future

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom coordinators found themselves “ahead of the curve” on new state social science learning standards coming this fall. Illinois Farm Bureau Education Director Kevin Daugherty said, “Farm bill work session attendees/pollinators” poster and identification guide distributed during a district coordinator meeting in Bloomington. The posters, guides and a new pollinator Ag Mag were developed and printed with financial support from GROWMARK Inc. and the IAA Foundation. (Photo by Catrina Rawson)

Farm bill work session on March 15

Kane County farmers can help develop Illinois Farm Bureau’s 2018 farm bill priorities during a work session scheduled for March 15.

Adam Nielsen, Illinois Farm Bureau’s director of national issues and policy development, will facilitate a series of sessions throughout Illinois beginning that same day. The meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to Wednesday, March 15 at the Kane County Farm Bureau. The session will include a review of IFB and AFBF’s farm bill policy. Lunch will be provided for participants.

Participants will break into groups and discuss what’s working/what needs improving in the 2018 farm bill. “You’ll send me back to Bloomington with a list of 2018 farm bill priorities for the IFB Board of Directors and staff to chew on,” Nielsen said. For more information or to register, contact Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.

New bill would help rein in health insurance costs

A recently introduced bill to help lower health insurance costs for small business owners has the backing of farmers and ranchers. “We want to help small businesses,” said Zippy Duval, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. “We understand it’s about Trump’s trade rhetoric, but he’s our president and we’re going to try to support him. We did certainly let him know that we’re nervous.”

While many industries praised the United States’ withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the agricultural industry highlighted the U.S. removing itself from the trade agreement. Agricultural industry exports roughly one-fifth of everything it produces, notes the Post. For more on AFBF’s trade policies, go to http://www.fb.org/issues/trade.

FB news briefs

Washington Post: Trade Imports America’s Farmers and Ranchers

The Washington Post recently quoted American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duval on the importance of trade to American agriculture. “We can’t have a system that would repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act,” Duval said. “The bill addresses one of the major concerns that farmers and ranchers have related to health insurance—cost. The health insurance tax (HIT) has increased health insurance costs for farmers, ranchers and other small businesses by imposing a levy on the net premiums of health insurance companies, which is passed on to consumers. During 2014, $8 billion of excise taxes were levied, and $11 billion were collected in 2015 and 2016 each.”

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duval said in a letter to House members urging them to support the bill. While a one-year moratorium on the tax is in effect for 2017, the HIT, which increases year-over-year, will be back in 2018. “Providing one year of relief from the HIT was a welcome and critical first step, but Americans need the certainty of a full repeal,” Duval said. AFBF is encouraging farmers and ranchers to ask their representatives to support H.R. 246.
AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers

Women’s Corner
By Louise Johnson
Women’s Committee Chair

D id you know that no one in Ireland eats corned beef! A traditional Irish dinner would be lamb! By the early 1970’s when smoke alarms were first marketed, in homes where the smoke alarms are working properly.

As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never “arise wrong-way!”

KANE COUNTY FARMER

March 2017

“Be the sun in someone’s dark sky.”

Matsushita Dihwayo given to a farm family going through a medical or family based crisis. Thus, they become the sun in another’s dark sky.

Feeding the hungry ... we have so many farmers that donate the crops they made money from acreage in our Harvest for ALL program. We have supplied over one million meals through the Illinois Food Bank with this program. If that is not enough, some farmers or milk money is donated to help students get this precious time to someone in need. Being a helping hand to those in need ... our Young Farmers group exemplifies this notion. They have a tradition of “passing the hat” at their Christmas dinner. The collected money is donated to the Kane County Food Pantries.

Helping a farmer out with their harvest ... there have been times when a farmer has planted all his crops and then a tragedy struck making harvest impossible for him/her to complete. That is the time for neighboring farmers to swoop in with an army of combines to complete the farmer’s harvest for him/her. This is not a little thing. Each of these helping farmers has their own crops to harvest while the weather holds, so their time is limited, yet they give this precious time to someone in need.

Farmers ... is something they use to help students learn about agriculture? That’s right, from a farmer who donates portions of their crops to facilitate learning. What would I do without these wonderful farmers? Hopefully, I never have to find out.

So, being the sun in someone’s dark sky is something I am able to witness frequently in my work, thanks to all the farmers that strive to see where they can be of service to others. Thank you, farmers, for all you do.

Book of the month

A combination of riddles, facts, and recipes ... who could ask for more? “Filled with vibrant illustrations, this is a great book for introducing edible plants. The rhyming text is easy for children to follow, with enough hints to guess the surprise vegetable on the next page. Using the recipes in the book, students can contribute their own – this book encourages a conversation about the importance of eating fresh fruits and vegetables.” Rose Judd-Murray, Educational Specialist, National Gardening Association.

Another facet that has not been mentioned is the food for thought section at the back of the book. Here the author gives information about each plant that is in the book, what plants need to grow, the difference between fruits and vegetables, plant parts and pollinators. She also includes some discussion questions.

The book is beautifully illustrated by Chris Arbo, a very detailed artist who has illustrat-

ed many other books, each with a nature basis. Her use of insects and birds throughout the illustrations makes learning discussions possible.

If you are interested in books concerning gardening and plants, we have many available for checkout from our agricultural library here at the KCFB. Our library began due to a request years ago by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn. We have an ever growing selection of titles.

March 12th. Use this date to check your smoke-detector batteries. Home fire deaths have been cut in half since the early 1970’s when smoke alarms were first marketed, in homes where the smoke alarms are working properly.

As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never “arise wrong-way!”

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Book of the month

A combination of riddles, facts, and recipes ... who could ask for more? “Filled with vibrant illustrations, this is a great book for introducing edible plants. The rhyming text is easy for children to follow, with enough hints to guess the surprise vegetable on the next page. Using the recipes in the book, students can contribute their own – this book encourages a conversation about the importance of eating fresh fruits and vegetables.” Rose Judd-Murray, Educational Specialist, National Gardening Association.

Another facet that has not been mentioned is the food for thought section at the back of the book. Here the author gives information about each plant that is in the book, what plants need to grow, the difference between fruits and vegetables, plant parts and pollinators. She also includes some discussion questions.

The book is beautifully illustrated by Chris Arbo, a very detailed artist who has illustrat-

ed many other books, each with a nature basis. Her use of insects and birds throughout the illustrations makes learning discussions possible.

If you are interested in books concerning gardening and plants, we have many available for checkout from our agricultural library here at the KCFB. Our library began due to a request years ago by Bob Konen and Dean Dunn. We have an ever growing selection of titles.

W hat a thought to ponder ... Kane County is blessed with farmers that live by that thought. Since I’ve worked for the KCFB, I’ve been able to witness many acts that brought a bit of sun’s dark time in someone’s life.

Helping a farmer out with their harvest ... there have been times when a farmer has planted all his crops and then a tragedy struck making harvest impossible for him/her to complete. That is the time for neighboring farmers to swoop in with an army of combines to complete the farmer’s harvest for him/her. This is not a little thing. Each of these helping farmers has their own crops to harvest while the weather holds, so their time is limited, yet they give this precious time to someone in need.

Being a helping hand to those in need ... our Young Farmers group exemplifies this notion. They have a tradition of “passing the hat” at their Christmas dinner. The collected money is donated to the Kane County Food Pantries.

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Farmers ... is something they use to help students learn about agriculture? That’s right, from a farmer who donates portions of their crops to facilitate learning. What would I do without these wonderful farmers? Hopefully, I never have to find out.

So, being the sun in someone’s life.
F or decades, agriculture has been associated with production of essential food crops. At present, agriculture above and beyond farming includes forestry, dairy, fruit cultivation, poultry, bee keeping, mushroom cultivation, etc. Today, processing, marketing and distribution of crops and livestock products are all acknowledged as part of current agriculture. Thus, agriculture could be referred to as the production, processing, promotion and distribution agricul tural products. Agriculture plays a critical role in the entire life of a given economy. Agriculture is the backbone of the economic system of a given country. In addition to providing food and raw material, agriculture also provides employment opportunities to very large percentage of population.

Agriculture in your child’s day

We rely on farmers daily for our food, but did you know there are lots of other everyday items that come from the farm? Can you count the ways agriculture touches your life? When you wake up in the morning, you’re lying on cotton sheets. You swing your feet onto a wood floor. A rug made from the wool of a sheep, or flooring made from linen or soybean oil. The soap you use in the shower contains tallow (a byproduct of the beef industry), or cottonseed oil or lanolin (a kind of oil from the wool of sheep). The towel you dry off with and the jeans and T-shirt you put on are made from cotton. You’ve already used dozens of agricultural products, and you haven’t even started eating. You get on your bike and ride on tires reinforced with cotton fibers, or you take a school bus that is fueled with Soybean biodiesel. When you get to the classroom, you open a book held together with glue made from the hide and hair of a cow or a pig and printed with printer’s ink made from soybeans. At recess you go outside and play baseball with a wooden bat and a glove made from the hide of a cow. Your baseball field is probably made from wool yarn wound around a cork or rubber core and covered with the hide of a cow.

Well there you have it agriculture? We rely on farmers daily for our food. At present, agriculture above and beyond farming includes forestry, dairy, fruit cultivation, poultry, bee keeping, mushroom cultivation, etc. Today, processing, marketing and distribution of crops and livestock products are all acknowledged to as the production, processing, promotion and distribution agricultural system of a given country. In addition to providing food and raw materials, and you haven’t even started eating. You get on your bike and ride on tires reinforced with cotton fibers, or you take a school bus that is fueled with Soybean biodiesel. When you get to the classroom, you open a book held together with glue made from the hide and hair of a cow or a pig and printed with printer’s ink made from soybeans. At recess you go outside and play baseball with a wooden bat and a glove made from the hide of a cow. Your baseball field is probably made from wool yarn wound around a cork or rubber core and covered with the hide of a cow.

What is agriculture?

Agriculture, or farming, is the science of cultivating soil, producing crops and raising livestock. It is the nation’s largest industry, employing approximately 23 million people in over 250 career areas. Less than 1% of the nation’s population claims farming as their occupation. Some examples of careers that are considered agricultural are: Agribusiness Management focuses on the managerial functions performed by organizations throughout the food system. Agricultural and Natural Resources Communication focuses on careers in journalism, public relations, and advertising/marketing. Building Construction Management focuses on land development and structural buildings. Agrisience provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among experts in the field of agricultural science. Some examples of careers that are considered agricultural are: Agribusiness Management focuses on the managerial functions performed by organizations throughout the food system. Agricultural and Natural Resources Communication focuses on careers in journalism, public relations, and advertising/marketing. Building Construction Management focuses on land development and structural buildings. Agrisience provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among experts in the field of agricultural science. Some examples of careers that are considered agricultural are: Agribusiness Management focuses on the managerial functions performed by organizations throughout the food system. Agricultural and Natural Resources Communication focuses on careers in journalism, public relations, and advertising/marketing. Building Construction Management focuses on land development and structural buildings. Agrisience provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among experts in the field of agricultural science. Some examples of careers that are considered agricultural are: Agribusiness Management focuses on the managerial functions performed by organizations throughout the food system. Agricultural and Natural Resources Communication focuses on careers in journalism, public relations, and advertising/marketing. Building Construction Management focuses on land development and structural buildings. Agrisience provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among experts in the field of agricultural science. Did you know?

• The average age of Illinois farmers is 56.
• Each Illinois farmer feeds 156 people.
• In Illinois, 39.8 million acres of land is used for agricultural purposes.
• As of 2015, the number of farms in Illinois was 73,600.
• Illinois ranks 7th nationally for agricultural sales in the United States.
• The average depth of top soil in Illinois is 2.4 feet.
• Illinois has some of the richest and most productive soil in the world.

• “Drummer” soil series has been designated the official state soil.
• Illinois has approximately 1,500 different soil types.
• Illinois is a leading producer of soybeans, corn and swine.
• Illinois also produces several specialty crops, such as buckwheat, horseradish, ostriches, fish and Christmas trees.
• Illinois grows more pumpkins than any other state.
• The average size of an Illinois farm, including hobby farms, is 358 acres.
• Marketing of Illinois’ agricultural commodities generates more than $10 billion annually.
• More than 2,000 miles of interstate highway and 34,500 miles of other state highway make trucking of goods fast and efficient.
• Chicago is home to the largest railroad gateway in the nation, connecting the eastern and western United States.
• Illinois, with 1,118 miles of navigable waterways, including the Illinois and Mississippi rivers, make barge traffic an excellent option for shipment of grain to the Gulf of Mexico.
• Illinois ranks 9th nationally in the export of agricultural commodities.
• There are only 75,087 farm operators, down from 164,000 in 1959.
Growing up, children are always asked what they want to be when they grow up. I remember in my elementary school days everyone wanted to be things like police officers, fire fighters, princesses, and doctors. I don’t quite remember what my “go to” answer for that question was, but I do remember the moment I fell in love with agriculture. Well ... maybe not all agriculture, as that concept might have been a little too much for my four year old self to comprehend, but that’s beside the point.

I was four years old and at a local summer carnival with my grandparents. It was a sunny afternoon in mid-June and I was extra excited, as my two sisters and I looked forward to the amount of tickets, and walked me right over to the tent, beside a flashy black and white painted pony. At the very back of the carnival, heading out when I saw it. It was at the very back of the carnival, under a red and white striped tent. With wide eyes my grandpa walked me right over to the tent, handed over the appropriate amount of tickets, and walked me over to the attendant who stood beside a flashy black and white painted pony.

I climbed high up in that saddle, and I was hooked. From that day on, all I could talk about was ponies and horses and how one day I would own the prettiest one of all. Naturally, my childhood obsession led me to wanting my own pony, and everything remotely related to horses—books, posters, clothes, stuffed animals, Breyer ponies ... whatever I could get my hands on. Eventually, I was even able to wear my parents down enough and take riding lessons. I was so excited for my first lesson I almost slammed my finger in the car door on my way into the barn, but that’s a story for another time.

When I was going into middle school I moved to the west side of Elgin, which meant I would be going to Burlington Central High School. It was there I discovered, thanks to the diversity of agriculture and industry in the field of agriculture, that there is so much more to agriculture than just horses. After taking an “introduction to agricultural science” class in high school I was introduced to this huge industry of farms, food, and so much more. From that moment on, I took every possible opportunity to learn more about this wonderful industry called agriculture, taking every single agriculture class offered at Burlington Central High School before graduating. The choice to further my education in the field of agriculture.

KANE COUNTY FARMER

It all started with a pony ride
By Kristi Van Oost

St. Charles Agency, Bob Efner, Agency Manager

TODD WILCOX has been named the Financial Representative of the Month for January 2017 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Efner, Sr., CLP, LUTCF. Todd has provided tangible plans for obtaining life insurance and long term insurance and financial security needs of his clients through COUNTRY Financial’s diverse products and services: Auto, Farm, Home, Life/ Disability/Health/Annuities/ Long Term Care, Retirement Planning, Business and Investments. Let Todd’s expertise help you! His contact information is: 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, 60174, phone 630-762-1326, email todd.wilcox@countrystate.com. Congratulations, Todd!

What’s new in the COUNTRY agencies?

Ariens Snow Blower, electric start, SHP, 24” cut, 4 sp forward/2 sp back, Self-propelled. 300 Ceiling fans. 630 997 4306

FOR SALE

1953 Model 60 JD tractor, Model 52 plow trailer, tractor. 3600 for all 3 items. Please call 630 557 2711.

Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomaz, Agency Manager


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

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Felipe Rocha! Felipe has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since August of 2011. His office is located at 541 N. Lake Street, Aurora. As a token of our appreciation, Felipe receives two tickets to Charlestonme Movie Theater. Thank you for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations to Felipe Rocha, Recruiter of the Month!

Felipe Rocha

YOUR TICKET TO........

Family entry at $25 Touch a Tractor
Cash & prizes in the
RAFFLE
Agriculture in the classroom.
April 8 & 9, 2017 - St Charles
AURORA AGRICULTURE
CONTACT: MELONY WILCOX
557 FARM ROAD
ST CHARLES, IL 60174
MELONY.WILCOX@COUNTRYSTATE.COM
(630) 254-8606
MARCH 2017

COUNTRY FARM BUREAU

Located in beautiful Kane County, Illinois

For more photos of farms & fun

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Scrap for CASH
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CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

Classified advertising rates: 20 cents per word/$20 minimum (60 words or less). DISCOUNTS for repeat orders: 1-29 words, 20%; Voting members, 30%; PLUS members, 40%. Advance payment requested. No advertising will be accepted in the Classifieds without payment in full for the entire month in advance. No advertising (classified or display) for financial or insurance services will be accepted. Call 630-584-8860.

FOR SALE

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Kane County Young Farmers

David Marshall of Sugar Grove, Sarah Lenkaitis of St. Charles, Wayne Gehrke and Katherine Gorenz, both of Maple Park, hope to be part of a group of 40 Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders to tour agriculture operations in Ontario, Canada as part of the IFB Young Leaders annual Ag Tour. Both committee members have applied to be part of the program are looking forward to taking a deeper look into Canadian agriculture, including specialty crops, livestock, manufacturing, research facilities and Niagara Falls.

Dates for the tour are July 9-14. If accepted, the Kane County farmers will share their experiences with other members of the Young Farmers Committee and the Board of Directors.

The Young Leader Ag Tour is one of many activities coordinated by the IFB State Young Leaders Committee. Other activities include annual awards and recognition programs, conferences, a discussion meet, quiz bowl, hunger relief activities, and Collegiate Farm Bureau events all designed to promote education, build skills, and develop future leaders for the county and state associations.

KCFB Young Farmers to attend industry tour to Ontario, Canada

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To learn more about Young Farmer events, contact the Kane County Farm Bureau at info@kanecfb.com.
Hungry benefit (continued from page 2)
most important community service efforts undertaken by Farm Bureau members. Although the U.S. economy is stronger overall compared to seven years ago, many Americans still need help securing adequate food for their families.

KANE COUNTY FARMER
families have gathered more than 223 million pounds of food, logged more than 121,000 volunteer hours and raised $5 million in donations.

Locally, Kane County farmers and the Kane County Farm Bureau have contributed the equivalent of more than 1.75 million meals to local food pantries since 2009. The Young Farmers Committee of the KCFB has been recognized as the top contributor to Harvest for All from among Illinois County Farm Bureaus of similar size, every year since 2003. 100% of the monetary donations to the Northern Illinois Food Bank through the KCFB Harvest for ALL program are used to purchase milk, one of the most needed and least frequently donated items, through the Milk 2 My Plate program.

Touch-A-Tractor ‘wish list’

KCFB is seeking donations of youth sized farm clothing/ costumes (plus boots and hats), old kitchen utensils and cooking supplies, and various other items commonly found or used on farms. This list includes such items as plastic culverts suitable for crawling through, clean plastic 30 gallon drums for a riding mower “train,” and even large round or square hay or straw bales. If you are interested in providing a donation, or know of a business or individual that might be interested in doing so, please contact the KCFB office at (630) 584-8660 or feel free to stop by our office with your item(s). Your donations will help make our 12th Annual Touch-A-Tractor a success.

Nursing scholarship application available

Applications are now available for nursing practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be five scholarships, worth $4,000 each, granted this year. The scholarship program, now in its 25th year, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois. 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 website at RIMSAF.com, or by writing Peggy Romba, Program Manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, PO Box 2901, Bloomington, IL 61702-2901. Applications are due May 1.

For additional information, contact Peggy Romba at 309- 557-2350, or e-mail at promba@ilfb.org.