

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. 72 NO. 3 MARCH 2007

You are invited—Touch a Tractor!

Do you remember as a child seeing a tractor in the field and being fascinated? Wouldn't it be exciting if you could actually take a ride on one, or at least see it up close and maybe sit on the seat?

If you were not from a farm family, did you wonder about farmers? What is it like to be a farmer and what kinds of things do they do all day?

The Kane County Farm Bureau would like to invite you to bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and anyone else, big or small, to "Touch a Tractor".

This one of a kind event will be held on the front lawn of the Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, Friday March 30, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and

Saturday March 31, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. The Farm Bureau welcomes everyone to come out, celebrate agriculture, enjoy free giveaways and visit with local farmers who will be on hand to talk about and explain

close, touch it, and talk to farmers to gain a better understanding and appreciation of agriculture and the role that farmers play in our area. Kids games, a petting zoo and local direct farm marketers will all be a part of Touch-a-Tractor.

A food vendor will be on-site both days. On Saturday the event will feature live bluegrass music from 2-5 p.m., a drawing for a free pedal tractor for kids 8 and under and the winning ticket drawing in

the operation and different parts of a combine, tractor and tillage implements. Both new and antique farm equipment will be on-site for viewing.

There is no cost for admission, and children will be allowed to see equipment up

close, touch it, and talk to farmers to gain a better understanding and appreciation of agriculture and the role that farmers play in our area. Kids games, a petting zoo and local direct farm marketers will all be a part of Touch-a-Tractor.



Children are fascinated by farm tractors

Red or Green TRACTOR RAFFLE

The winning raffle ticket drawn at Touch a Tractor on March 31 will get the choice of this restored 1953 Super H or a new John Deere X 324 riding mower, compliments of the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation. The Red or Green Raffle raises funds for the Foundation's college scholar-

ships for students pursuing higher education in preparation for agriculture related careers.

Raffle tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Raffle tickets can be obtained from any director of the Kane County Farm Bureau or Foundation, or at the Farm Bureau office in St. Charles. To complement the tractor raffle, the Kane County Farm Bureau will give away a pedal tractor to one lucky kid who attends Touch-a-Tractor. The pedal tractor drawing is open to children 8 and under.



Last chance to win the John Deere riding mower (above) or the restored 1953 Super H.



FB members invited to attend the 23rd annual Ag Days, Mar. 6, 7 & 8

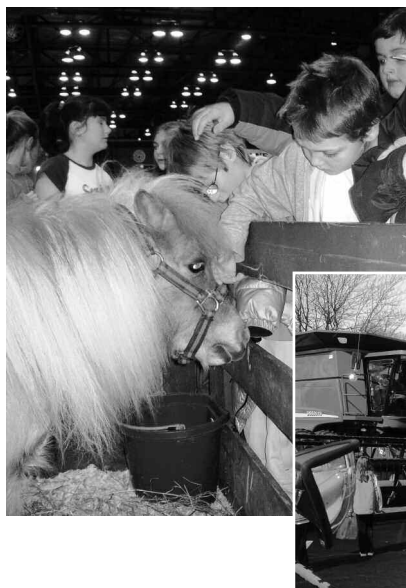
The Kane County Farm Bureau Women's Committee will sponsor Ag Days March 6-8 at Mooseheart Fieldhouse. Now in its 23rd year, this annual agricultural literacy program

will be host to over 2000 Kane County fourth grade students.

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.

Any Farm Bureau member interested in seeing and/or volunteering for Ag Days is welcome to attend. Please consider being a part of this great tradition and further your knowledge about agriculture. Contact the Farm Bureau for additional information at (630) 584-8660.

Over 2,000 Kane County fourth graders will learn about agriculture and participate in interactive agricultural activities during the 23rd annual Ag Days. For additional information, contact the Farm Bureau at (630) 584-8660.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 1**
Ag Days Bag Stuffing
4-7pm
- March 1**
Board of Directors Meeting
7:30pm
- March 5**
Ag Days Set-up,
Mooseheart
- March 6-8**
Ag Days, Mooseheart
- March 11**
Hampshire FFA 50th
Banquet, Hampshire
- March 12**
Foundation Board 8am
- March 13**
Direct Marketers/Specialty
Growers 5:30 pm
- March 14**
Women's Committee
9:15am
- March 16**
Legislative Roundtable
- March 28**
NE Legislative Reception,
Springfield
- March 30-31**
Touch-a-Tractor

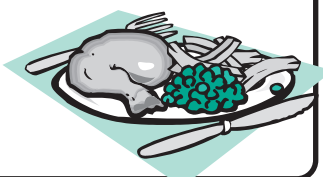
All meetings are at the Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Rd., St. Charles, unless otherwise noted.

March special – Chicken Florentine

The special of the month for March is Chicken Florentine. These 4.5 lb. special features six - 12-oz. chicken breasts breaded and stuffed with creamy four-cheeses and chopped spinach. The delicious chicken is the perfect meal to finish off the cold weather!

Each box is selling for \$19.00 to M or A+ members, and \$20.00 for A members. Available only in March or while supply lasts.

NOTE: Last month's special, the Surf & Turf, has been marked down to \$32.00 while supply lasts!



Long's Barn: Part III

by: Lyle R. Rolfe

EDITOR'S NOTE: Long's Barn holds particular significance in many family histories because of its 24 year history of barn dances. This month reporter Lyle Rolfe recounts just a few of the stories of lives changed by chance encounters at one of rural Kane County's favorite nightspots of 50 years past. In next month's final installment, he'll relate the tragic event that led to the barns closing as a dance hall in 1956, and this local farm family's commitment to preserving a piece of the past while honoring the wishes of the farm's patriarch, Art Long.

Long's Barn, the Matchmaker

Countless numbers of couples met here, Bob and Phyllis said. "Dad always said he wished he had a dollar for every couple that met here," Phyllis added.

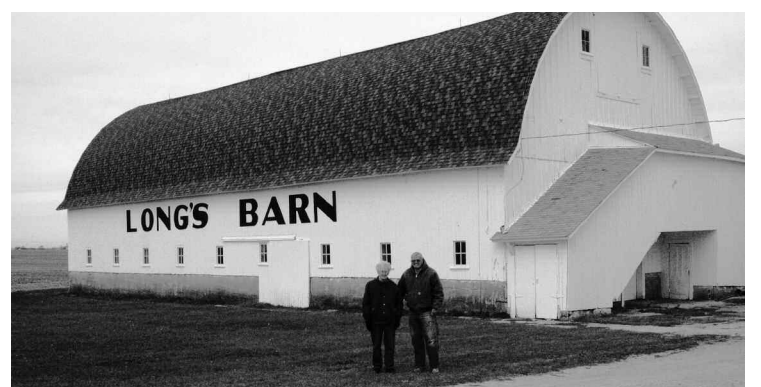
An Oswego couple, Vernita (Tellin) Hettrich, president of

the Oswego Library Board and her husband Laird revisited the barn last fall, turning the calendar back more than 50 years ago to when they met here.

When Phyllis came from the house to greet them, Laird said, "I remember you. You used to wait on tables sometimes." Each one admitted they had changed just a bit since then.

Laird also remembered Phyllis's father Art, a tall man over six feet, but gentle. "He was like a host ... he met people when they came in. He was very nice. "I don't think he knew my name. I was one of about 200 people that came here on Saturday nights. But everyone knew him," Laird said.

Laird was coming here with friends for about two years before he and Vernita met here on her first visit in 1954. One of those friends was Laraine (continued on page 6)



Bob & Phyllis (Long) Pierson outside Long's Barn on their farm on Lasher Road near Kaneville. The barn served as host to barn dances from 1932 to 1956.

YOUR BEST YEAR EVER?

By Steve Arnold, Manager



2006 was one of your association's best years in terms of public relations, marketing and legislative programs. President Gehrke previously reported on the recognition that Kane County Farm Bureau received from the IFB and AFBF, including two statewide awards for "Most Outstanding Programs", the IFB "Liberty Bell" for outstanding legislative and local government affairs programming and a national award for our Touch a Tractor program. The Farm Bureau staff and Board of Directors are justifiably proud of these accomplishments and recognition, but we're not resting on our laurels.

Similarly for many Kane County farmers, 2006 was a good year. The year's record high fuel prices combined with instability in the Middle East and Congressional action to skyrocket demand for domestic, renewable fuels, taking commodity prices along for the ride.

In fact, 2007 is shaping up to offer even more opportunities for Kane County farmers. Opportunities to influence public policy through the Farm Bill debate, and closer to home, opportunities to create a brighter future for the next generation of Kane County agriculturalists through statewide initiatives proposed by this organization and local programs supported by it.

The statewide initiative I'm speaking of is a bill drafted at the request of the Kane County Farm Bureau that would allow

Counties to hold referenda for voluntary farmland protection. The idea is similar to many open space initiatives on the surface, but offers greater public & private benefits.

By proposing to allow Counties to buy development rights on farmland (as Kane County currently does) with funding from the issuance of bonds, we hope to expand the pool of available funds to help meet the demand for this type of program here in Kane County. The public benefit is protection of significantly more open space, at a fraction of the cost of doing the same through a Forest Preserve or Park District. And although the farmland would be private open space, it continues to offer many of the public benefits touted by land preservation advocates; water quality improvement, groundwater recharge, flood control and wildlife habitat, and continues to generate property taxes while not burdening the government services those taxes support.

The bill has been introduced in the Illinois Senate by Senator Susan Garrett. Farm Bureau leaders discussed the proposed legislation with State Senators and Representatives on February 20th during our annual "Lunches to Legislators" program.

Nearly all of our local legislators voiced support for the concept. We'll keep you posted as the bill, hopefully, works its way through the General Assembly.

Closer to home, our association has been approached by a

KANE COUNTY FARMER

public policy consultant to assist in a study of the agricultural commerce taking root along the outskirts of metropolitan regions like Kane County as farmers capitalize on proximity to population centers and convert to higher value direct-marketed products.

If approved, the study hopes to broaden understanding of Chicago's regional farm economy by providing a snapshot of six market segments that supplement traditional commodity production: greenhouses/nurseries/sod; fresh-and-local food systems; the equine industry; agricultural support industries; forestry and "agritainment." The study would be developed in consultation with our association to:

- Identify and interview rural entrepreneurs for the purpose of describing the full range of urban-edge-ag business models as well as exploring possible benefits that may result from coordinated marketing efforts/organized political support;

- Compare urban edge market issues with those of traditional commodity producers who have recently begun to take advantage of new markets for biofuels as well as containerized exports shipped via nearby Will/Ogle County railports;

- Identify the basis for a possible common agenda in partnership with a network of county Farm Bureaus, local Chambers of Commerce, economic development agencies and other organizations;

- Explore how Kane County may benefit from non-farm community advocacy for policies and programs designed to sustain profitable agricultural enterprises;

- Devise/implement strategy to publicize study findings through dissemination of human-interest stories that will

build support for such policies/programs;

- Seek partnerships with private/public organizations and civic groups that will secure funding necessary to use the Kane County study model to build the urban-edge ag market concept throughout the 11-county "MEGA Chicago" jurisdiction.

The fact is, Kane County farmland is disappearing more quickly than anyone could have imagined a decade ago. But it begs a question. Would it be so if farms were more profitable?

Nothing is more important than profitability in ensuring a continued strong agricultural economy (and farmland) in Kane County. The three outlined issues outlined here; the Farm Bill, farmland protection and building new markets for all Kane County ag products are all roadmaps of a sort to get to that more desirable future. So, my hope for your association and for your farm is not that 2007 will be your best year ever. But I do I hope that it will be your best year yet.

Farm Bureau Board Attendance Sept. 2006 – August 2007

SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JLY AUG

R. Biddle	X	X	X	X	X	X						
B Collins		X	X	X	X	X						
C. Collins	X	X	X	X	X	X						
G. Feldott	X	X	X	X	X							
G. Gaitsch	X	X	X	X	X	X						
R. Gehrke	X	X	X	X	X	X						
M. Kenyon	X	X	X	X	X	X						
J. Kriegel	X	X	X	X	X	X						
D. Lehrer	X	X	X	X	X	X						
A Lenkaitis, Jr.	X	X	X		X	X						
R Pauli	X	X	X	X	X							
M. Pitstick		X			X	X						
W. Schneider	X	X	X	X	X	X						
A. Volpp	X		X	X	X	X						
J. White	X	X	X	X	X	X						



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*.

Hampshire FFA to celebrate 75th anniversary with Max Armstrong

The Hampshire FFA Chapter will celebrate their 75th Anniversary Sunday, March 11, 2007 at 1:00pm with special guest Max Armstrong.

The 75th anniversary program will honor FFA Member's accomplishments and to recognize parents, alumni, Ag council members, local businesses and others who have helped support the FFA Chapter and agriculture program throughout the past year.

Famed WGN broadcaster Max Armstrong will provide the



Max Armstrong

keynote speech for this special celebration. Armstrong is one of the most widely recognized and highly regarded agriculture journalists. Broadcasting for nearly thirty years, he has been seen and heard by millions of farmers and consumers throughout the nation. Armstrong is also known for his restored 1953 Farmall Super H that he takes to various tractor drives and parades.

As in years past, the FFA members will once again conduct a silent auction after the program, to serve as a fundraiser for the chapter. The winning ticket for this year's tractor raf-

fle will also be drawn. The holder of the winning ticket will become the proud owner of a restored Minneapolis Z. An open house will begin at 11:00 am for those who would like to tour the school's agriculture facilities and view photos and awards through the years.

The program will be held at the Hampshire Middle School Gymnasium. Cost for attending will be \$15 per person and include a catered meal. If you plan to attend this event, please contact FFA Advisor Steve Austin at (847) 683-2522 x26 or (847) 683-3013 before Thursday, March 8.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations, Sue Fuentes of Aurora. Sue's name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Crossword Puzzle. For her participation, she will receive a free gift certificate for Giordano's pizza. Thank you for reading the *Kane County Farmer*, Sue, and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau!

Your Farm Bureau membership means Value

Capron, IL, In the Rockford area
35 ACRES FOR SALE BY OWNER.
FOR INFO CALL SANDRA AT (847)567-5042.

14087 Russellville Road on the corner of Edson and Russellville Road located off Route 176 or I-90 NW, exit Belvedere Rd. This land is great for a landscape business, horses, or growing a fruit orchard. Out buildings are allowed, but this land is not approved for housing development at this time. Capron is a very beautiful country setting with majestic woods with cows grazing for your enjoyable view. This land borders Poplar Grove. GREAT INVESTMENT LAND!

Kane County Farmer KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

By Merry Pitstick

What's happening? Well ... I haven't written anything in the past couple of months because I have been very busy. As of the first of the year I started working part time doing the books for my husband's farm operation, so I am going to a part time position at the Farm Bureau and will be primarily coordinating our programs and events.

We have hired a new bookkeeper, Mary Cecchi. She will

be working full time and will assume my previous responsibilities (see her byline in this month's *Farmer*). If you have a chance, stop in to meet her and introduce yourself.

I am looking forward to my new responsibilities, and I'm very happy that I was able to continue working at the Farm Bureau on a part time basis. As always, I look forward to working with all of you.

A new face at the FB

Hello everyone, I am Mary Cecchi and I am the new bookkeeper at the Farm Bureau. I will be taking over Merry Pitstick's position. I have been living in St. Charles for the past nine years and just started to work full-time after taking time off to raise my two children.

I am excited to get back into the work force and I know there is plenty for me to learn here. I was unaware of all the organizations and members that make up the Farm Bureau. I have a huge respect for farmers, their land,

and their hard work and I look forward to this learning experience with all of you.



Mary Cecchi

Producers expanding marketing skills with 'Ready, Set, Grow'

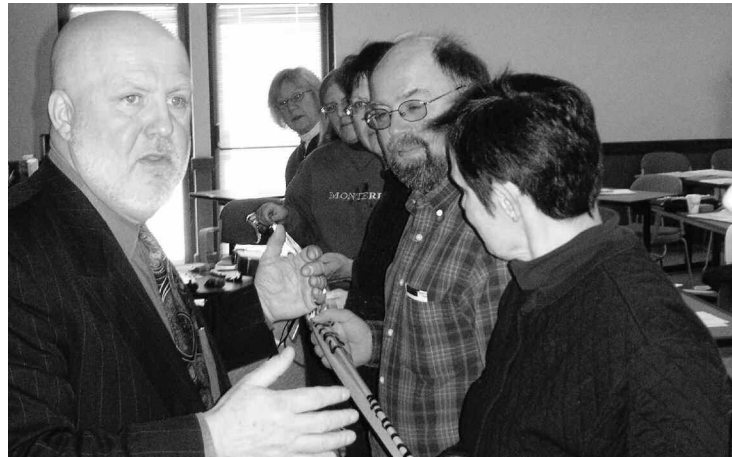
On Saturday February 10, 2007, 14 members of the Kane County Farm Bureau's Direct Marketers/Specialty Growers Committee ventured out into the bitter cold to participate in an interactive workshop entitled "Ready, Set, Grow". David Williamson, a creativity consultant from Ogden, Iowa challenged the participants to improve their creative and entrepreneurial skills. Members of the audience represented a range of farming activities from honey, produce, fiber, dairy and grain producers.

"In this busy culture of ours, people are looking for an experience", says Williamson. As producers of agricultural products, it is crucial to learn techniques for packaging and marketing both the product and the process.

In counties which are experiencing rapid growth, such as Kane County, opportunities abound for the Farm Bureau member who wants to take on the challenges of serving the niche and specialty markets.

Agriculture professionals in Kane County had the opportunity to learn and grow by unlocking their creativity with David Williamson's workshop, "Ready, Set, Grow!"

For more information on the Direct Marketing Committee of Kane County, contact Kane County Farm Bureau Manager Steve Arnold at 630-584-8660 or info@kanecfb.com



David Williamson (foreground), a creativity consultant from Ogden, Iowa conducts an experiment on communication methods with participants at a February 10 workshop held at the Kane County Farm Bureau. "Ready, Set, Grow" helped participants improve their creative and entrepreneurial skills and was sponsored by the Farm Bureau's Direct Marketers/Specialty Growers Committee, a group formed to help producers in specialty ag and niche markets. For more information on the groups activities, contact Steve Arnold at 630 584-8660 or attend the next meeting, Tuesday, March 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the Kane County Farm Bureau.

Cultivating Master Farmers applications now available

Applications are now available for the Cultivating Master Farmers program, which is designed to connect young and beginning farmers with Prairie Farmer Master Farmers.

The program was launched in 2005 by Illinois Farm Bureau, 1st Farm Credit Services, Farm Credit Services of Illinois, Farm Progress Companies, GROW-MARK, Inc., and Monsanto, and offers benefits for those just starting their farming career and those who are seasoned in the industry. Carlinville farmer Josh Young called the program a "great opportunity for younger guys to get in touch with the people we look up to and aspire to be." Russell Rosenboom of Clifton said the program is beneficial to both young and Master farmers. "You get the wisdom of the old and the enthusiasm of the young, and that's inspired me,"

he said.

Cultivating Master Farmers brings together two generations of farmers - 10 young farmers and 10 of Prairie Farmer's Master Farmers - for six scheduled events over two years. Participants are chosen by a selection committee in May and notified by June 1, 2007.

Young farmer application forms are available by clicking on Cultivating Master Farmers link on the sponsor websites (www.ilfb.org, www.prairiefarmer.com, www.growmark.com, www.monsanto.com, or www.usfarmcredit.com) or through any county Farm Bureau or Farm Credit Services branch office. Young farmers must be Illinois residents between the ages of 21 and 36. Applications must be postmarked by March 31 and delivered to the Young People's Activities Department,

Illinois Farm Bureau, 1701 N. Towanda Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701.

Master Farmers interested in participating should complete a one-page application, available through Prairie Farmer. To receive an application, contact Prairie Farmer at 217-877-9070, e-mailing cstout@farmprogress.com, by writing Prairie Farmer at 1301 E. Mound Rd., Decatur, IL 62526, or on the website at www.prairiefarmer.com.

Before you make a move

NRCS offers information for local farmers as they consider operational changes on the farm. Tom Ryterske, NRCS District Conservationist for Kane and DuPage Counties, shares these ideas and reminders. "Just a reminder, if you plan to bring any land into production, change a cropping system rotation, or maintain, improve, or modify an existing drainage system, make sure you visit your local NRCS office to discuss any issues or questions you may have," says Ryterske.

Ryterske reminds producers that a Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and/or wetland determination will need to be conducted on the above areas before any activity is started. "The determination is made to protect the landowner and ensure that Sodbuster or Swampbuster provisions of the Farm Bill are not violated, adds Ryterske.

If the provisions are violated, then the loss of all USDA farm program benefits could occur. "Please be aware that these requests may take a few weeks or several months to complete, so the sooner a request is made, the sooner it may be serviced," adds Ryterske. For more information contact your local NRCS office at (630) 584-7961.

Recipes welcome

The Kane County Farm Bureau Women's Committee would like to request recipes for their 2007 Favorite Fruit & Vegetable Recipes Brochure. All recipes must include the use of either fresh fruit or fresh vegetables available in Kane County. Please know that some of the recipes submitted may not be included if they are duplicated or have been included in recent editions of the brochure.



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Randy Panzer Brad Slutz Mark Ringhouse Mike Shane



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Food pantries win in 6th annual 'Challenge' shopping spree

The 6th Annual Food Check-out Challenge was held February 2, 2007 at Jewel-Osco in Batavia. The "Challenge" pitted freshmen State Senators

Mike Noland, D-22, Elgin against Linda Holmes, D-42, Aurora, in a six minute shopping spree for local food pantries. Both contestants were

cheered on by Batavia High School cheerleaders. Noland represented PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) of Elgin and Holmes represented

Wayside Cross Ministries of Aurora. The pair gathered over \$1,700 worth of food in the allotted time that was purchased by the Kane County Farm Bureau and donated to the respective food pantries. In the six years since it's inception,

every State Legislator who resides or has an office in Kane County has participated in the event and collectively they have gathered over \$10,000 in groceries, all purchased by KCFB for local food pantries.

22nd District State Senator Mike Noland (D-Elgin) tosses cans of fruit into a shopping cart while PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) Administrative Assistant Doris Kempf points out the next item on the shelves needed by the shelter. In six minutes, Noland collected nearly \$1,200 in groceries for the PADS, while Senator Linda Holmes gathered over \$600 in groceries for Wayside Cross Ministries.



42nd District State Senator Linda Holmes (D-Aurora, assisted by the Director of the Master's Touch Ministry at Wayside Cross Ministries, Randy Tomassi, rings up her "Food Check-Out Day" purchases at Batavia's Jewel-Osco. Food Check-Out Day marks the day when the average American family has earned enough money to pay for groceries for one full year. Farm Bureau, with a great deal of help from local public officials, marks the day by sponsoring this annual "competition" to benefit local food pantries.



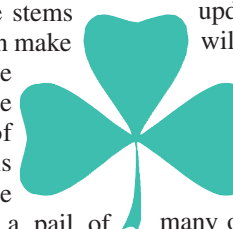
WOMEN'S CORNER

By Louise Johnson
Women's Committee President



Happy St. Patrick's Day! Remember, everyone's Irish on March 17th!

To rush Spring a little, you can have spring-flowering trees and branches bloom indoors. Prune a few branches from your tree or shrub; cut the stems on a diagonal and then make a few more slits up the cut end – do not use the old method of crushing the stems with a hammer; place the cut branches in a pail of cool water, inside, in a cool place, out of direct sunlight; mist the branches occasionally or keep them near a humidifier; after a week or two enjoy your blooming branches around your home, but keep them out of direct sunlight.



Your computer may not be ready for this, if you do not update it regularly. All major computer systems have a software patch available to correct this change of the start and end of daylight savings time. To update your computer you will need to run a "System Update." Many items, other than computers, with date/time computer chips will be affected; however, many of them will automatically receive an update.

Here is a recipe for St. Patrick's Day dinner. It is from our friends in the DuPage Women's Committee. My daughter made it for Christmas dinner this year and served it warm. It was delicious.

Marinated Green Beans

- 6 c. fresh green beans, ends trimmed
- 1/4 c. basil or red wine vinegar
- 1/2 c. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 c. chopped mixed fresh herbs, such as parsley, basil, thyme
- 2 shallots, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 tsp salt
- black pepper, to taste

Heat salted water to a boil in a large saucepan over high heat. Add beans; cook until just tender – 4 to 5 minutes. Drain. Whisk together the remaining ingredients in a medium bowl. Add warm beans; toss to coat. Let stand at room temperature for up to 1 hour for flavors to blend. Adjust seasoning, if needed. Serve at room temperature or heated. Serves 6.

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



February has been a busy month for Agricultural Literacy. We had the annual conference in Kankakee just in time for the blizzard, which made us all cognizant of the impact weather makes on our lives. Many of us had to extend our stay in Kankakee so that we would have a safe trip home. The conference was full of learning. We used the *Farmers Almanac* in many different ways, giving us all ideas of how to use this new rendition of an old resource with our students and teachers. Reading with students was the topic of many sessions, helping us learn how to teach this very important subject in ways that the students will find enjoyable. I came back with many different ideas, ready to share them all.

The teacher Inservice was held here at Kane County Farm Bureau on the 16th. We had 30 some teachers here to learn about the new kits we have cre-

ated for their use in the classroom. We explored the Plant, Dairy, Soil, Insect and Poultry kits. These kits are called mAGic Kits, which stands for multidisciplinary AG integrated curriculum. Each of the kits has lessons in each of the core subjects. I have been lucky enough to help write these kits, so it was especially rewarding to see the teachers enjoy the activities and look forward to using them in their classrooms.

The next day, I presented a session on Agriculture Throughout the Seasons to the Fox Valley Young Child Conference at ECC. We used different books to read to the students as a means of integrating agricultural learning into the curriculum. Each book had an activity to go along with it. The teachers were excited to see different ways of teaching agriculture.

I must admit, I enjoy these inservices and presentations to teachers, as they always give me

new ideas which I pass on to others.

The rest of the month was spent on getting ready for our Ag Days. I want to thank all the people who helped with the bag stuffing and the actual Ag Days. Without the volunteer help, these 2,400 students of Kane County and their teachers would not be able to learn so much about the various aspects of agriculture.

After Ag Days, we worked on Touch A Tractor, which is to be held March 30 and 31. We hope that you will bring your families to come enjoy the various farm equipment, both new and antique. We will be having games, food, and lots of fun for all.

On a personal note, my trip to Antarctica was phenomenal. It fulfilled all my hopes and dreams. While there, I thought of the Inuit people of Alaska, who have some 40 different words for snow, and I decided that if Antarctica did have an indigenous people, they would have that many if not more, words for BLUE. I have never seen so many different beautiful hues of blue. I'm hoping to be able to share my adventures with people interested soon here at the Farm Bureau.

Young Farmers attend IFB Conference

Representatives of the Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers recently attended the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Conference in Springfield. The two-day conference featured sessions that focused on various agricultural topics and provided an opportunity for Kane County Young Farmers to meet other young agricultural leaders from throughout the state. The attendees also had the unique opportunity to discuss how agriculture differs throughout the state. Young Leader programs are for

Farm Bureau members 18 – 35 who have an interest in the future of agriculture. For information on

local Young Farmer programs and activities, contact the Farm Bureau at (630) 584-8660.



Front row attendees (L-R): Dale Pitstick, Lauren Hueber, Rachael Stuehler and Mark Engel. Back row (L-R) John Biddle, Steve Schramm and Heather Pierson.

Farmland For Sale

visit our website at www.capitalag.com

<p>Call Doug Lakamp: 217-359-3318</p> <p>411± ac. Ogle Co., IL 683± ac. Knox Co., IL</p> <p>Call Doug Deininger: 815-439-9245</p> <p>67± ac. Kendall Co., IL 65± ac. Kendall Co., IL 70± ac. Kendall Co., IL 155± ac. Kankakee Co., IL 152± ac. McDonough Co., IL 127± ac. Bureau Co., IL 156± Sold, IL 80± ac. Kendall Co., IL 390± ac. DeKalb Co., IL 418± Iroquois Co., IL 390± ac. Vermillion Co., IL 7± ac. Will Co., IL 237± ac. DeWitt Co., IL 389± ac. Piatt Co., IL 75± ac. Livingston Co., IL 40± ac. Livingston Co., IL 80± ac. Grundy Co., IL 155± ac. Will Co., IL 298± ac. Kankakee Co., IL 90± ac. Kendall Co., IL 129± ac. McHenry Co., IL</p>	<p>Call Chip Johnston: 815-875-2950</p> <p>44± ac. Henry Co., IL 240± ac. McDonough Co., IL 679 Sale Pending, IL 390± ac. Bureau Co., IL 80± ac. Marshall Co., IL New Price 60± ac. Whiteside Co., IL New Price 312± ac. Bureau Co., IL New Price 279± ac. McDonough Co., IL 115± ac. Henry Co., IL 70± ac. Bureau Co., IL 77± ac. Bureau Co., IL ► 30± ac. Knox Co., IL</p> <p>Call Scott Johnson: 217-359-3336</p> <p>422± ac. Sangamon Co., IL</p> <p>Call Bill Green: 630-761-8143</p> <p>80± ac. Kane Co., IL 10± ac. Kendall Co., IL</p> <p>Call Bob Pearson: 217-359-3300</p> <p>► 121± ac. Vermillion Co., IL</p> <p style="text-align: right;">► = New Listing</p>
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Farm Facts @ Fun



Interesting Facts

Peanuts

- The peanut is not a nut, but a legume related to beans and lentils.
- Peanuts are naturally cholesterol-free.
- Peanuts account for two-thirds of all snack nuts consumed in the USA.
- There are four types of peanuts that are grown in the USA. – Runner, Virginia, Spanish and Valencia.
- Four of the top 10 candy bars manufactured in the USA contain peanuts or peanut butter.
- The average American consumes more than six pounds of peanuts and peanut butter products each year.
- Most USA peanut farms are family-owned and operated.
- The peanut plant originated in South America.
- Peanuts contribute more than \$4 billion to the USA economy each year.
- Two peanut farmers have been elected president of the USA – Thomas Jefferson and Jimmy Carter.

Peanut Butter

- Peanut butter is the leading use of peanuts in the USA.
- It takes about 540 peanuts to make a 12-ounce jar of peanut butter.
- There are enough peanuts in one acre to make 30,000 peanut butter sandwiches.
- Peanut butter was first introduced to the USA in 1904 at the Universal Exposition in St. Louis by C.H. Sumner, who sold \$705.11 of the “new treat” at his concession stand.
- Peanut butter is consumed in 89 percent of USA households.
- The world’s largest peanut butter factory churns out 250,000 jars of the tasty treat every day.
- Women and children prefer creamy, while most men opt for chunky.
- Arachibutyrophobia is the fear of getting peanut butter stuck to the roof of your mouth.
- The average child will eat 1,500 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches before he/she graduates high school.
- Sixty percent of consumers prefer creamy peanut butter over crunchy.
- Americans spend almost \$800 million a year on peanut butter.

The National Peanut Board

How to make your own bird feeder

They will be flocking to your special bird feeder when it's covered with peanut butter.

Here's what you will need:

- Peanut butter
- One large pinecone
- Birdseed

Simply roll pinecone in peanut butter, then birdseed, and hang the cones in trees for the birds to enjoy!

The National Peanut Board



March is ...

- National Frozen Food Month
- National Nutrition Month
- National Peanut Month

Second Week –

- Chocolate Chip Cookie Week
- National School Breakfast Week



March 1: Peanut Butter Lover's Day

- March 3: Cold Cuts Day
- March 4: National Pound Cake Day
- March 6: National Frozen Food Day
- March 7: National Cereal Day
- March 14: National Potato Chip Day
- March 17: Corned Beef and Cabbage Day
- March 18: Oatmeal Cookie Day
- March 19: Poultry Day
- March 23: National Chip and Dip Day
- March 25: Pecan Day
- March 26: Spinach Day

Mmm ... recipes

Peanut Butter cookies

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup margarine
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1/2 teaspoon grated fresh orange rind
- 1 1/2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1 egg, well beaten
- 1/3 cup orange juice
- sugar substitute equivalent to 1/2 cup sugar*
- 3/4 cup seedless raisins

Preheat oven to 400° F. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. Cream together margarine, peanut butter, orange rind and vanilla. Add egg, orange juice and sweetener. Blend well. Add dry ingredients gradually, mixing well after each addition. Add raisins and mix well. Measure 1 level tablespoonful of dough for each cookie. Roll between hands to form a ball. Place 2 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Flatten with a fork. Bake about 15 minutes. Store cookies in a tightly covered tin. These cookies have better flavor and texture 24 hours after baking.

Makes 12 servings (2 cookies each)

*1/2 cup sugar sweetness equals 12 packets of saccharin or aspartame sweetener. Per serving: 191 calories, 5g protein, 10g total fat, 22g carbohydrates, 2.5g dietary fiber, 23mg cholesterol, 224mg sodium.

Peanut Butter Lovers.com



Buddy McNuffy's crispy Bars

- Prep time: 15 minutes
- Servings: 24 bars

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons margarine
- 10 ounces marshmallows
- 1/4 cup creamy peanut butter
- 6 cups crisp rice cereal

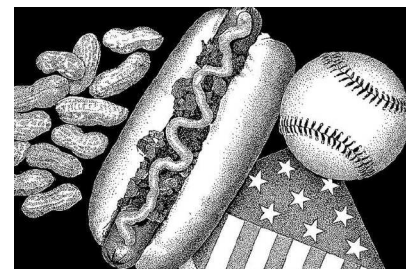
First, melt margarine and marshmallows in large saucepan over low heat. Stir frequently until melted completely. Remove from heat and stir in peanut butter until dissolved. Stir in rice cereal until the cereal is completely coated with the marshmallow mixture. Next, spread mixture into a 13x9x2 inch pan lightly coated with non-stick cooking spray. Press mixture into pan until firmly packed. Cool completely. Cut into 24 bars.

Nutrition per bar: 88 calories; 1g protein; 15g carbohydrate; 3g fat (1.5g monounsaturated; .05g saturated); 0mg cholesterol; trace fiber; 99mg sodium.

The National Peanut Board

Interesting Facts

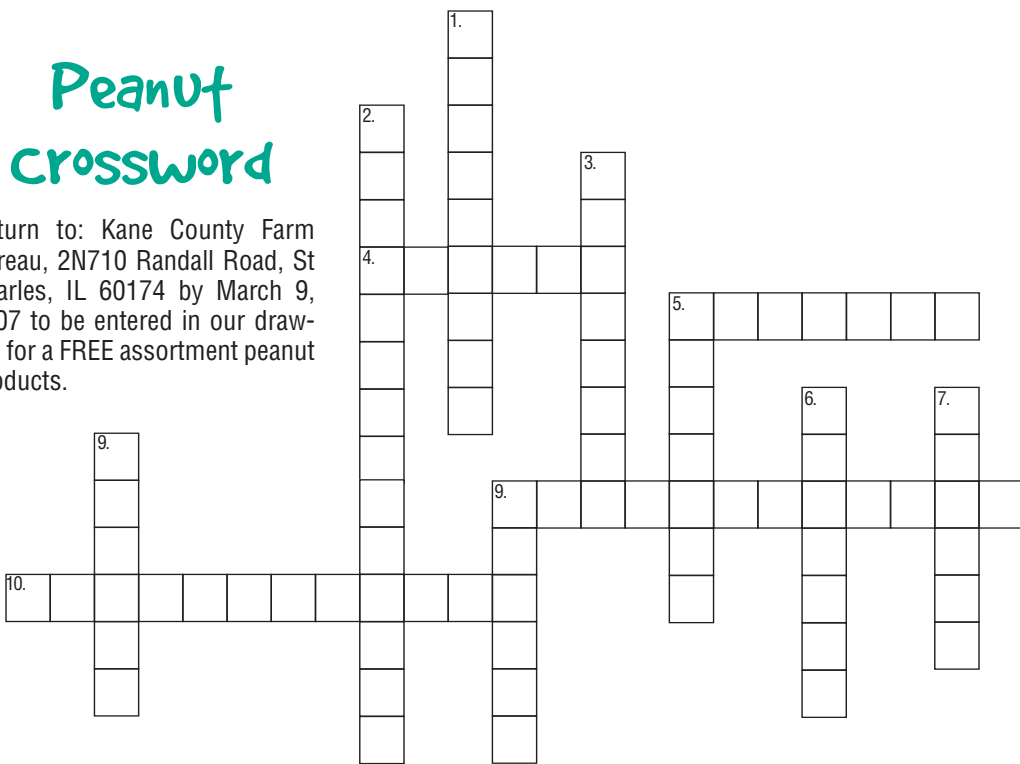
Ever wonder where the term “Peanut Gallery” comes from? The term became popular in the late 19th century and referred to the rear or uppermost seats in a theater, which were also the cheapest seats. People seated in such a gallery were able to throw peanuts, a common food at theaters, at those seated below them. It also applied to the first row of seats in a movie theater, for the occupants of those seats could throw peanuts at the stage, stating their displeasure with the performance.



The National Peanut Board

Peanut crossword

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St Charles, IL 60174 by March 9, 2007 to be entered in our drawing for a FREE assortment peanut products.



Across

- 4. Most well known peanut farmer who also was a former US President
- 5. Variety of peanuts that shares its name with a language
- 9. Leading use of peanuts in the US
- 10. Peanut plant originated in this country below the equator

Down

- 1. Third US President who was a peanut farmer
- 2. Fear of getting peanut butter stuck

to the roof of your mouth

- 3. This peanut shares its name with a state
- 5. First city peanut butter was introduced
- 6. Men prefer this type
- 7. Women and children prefer this type
- 8. A peanut is not a nut but a ____.
- 9. This snack food is cholesterol-free



Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Telephone (____) _____



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

By Beth Dawson

I was reading the *Farmers Almanac* for 2007, and I came across some interesting information that many of you might enjoy. The article answered three very interesting questions,

the first being, *Who are American farmers?* American farmers are the world's most productive farmers. More than 24 million people work in the agricultural field. *What is a*

KANE COUNTY FARMER

Farm? A farm by definition is an operation that generates or has capability to generate \$1,000 in agriculture. In 2002, the USDA census recorded that over 2.1 million farms are in United States. *Where are the most farms?* The top six are Texas, Missouri, Iowa, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Oklahoma. This leads to some interesting facts about today's farmers.

- 58% of farms have computers
- 92% of young farmers and ranchers use computers

- 48% of farms have internet access
- 88% of young farmers and ranchers have internet access
- 90% of young farmers use cell phones
- 19% of young farmers use global positioning technology to help determine where to plant, and where to apply pesticide and fertilizer.

Source: *Farmers Almanac*

Planning on taking a trip over spring break? Take advantage of additional savings by using your Kane County Farm Bureau membership. Whether you are staying at a Choice Hotel, Baymont Inn, Travelodge, Ramada, Super 8 or

MARCH 2007

another hotel you will be pleased by the savings. Farm Bureau has a member discount program with over 15 nationwide hotel chains! Also, if you need to rent a car from Enterprise, Alamo, Hertz, or National Car Rental while you're away, your Farm Bureau membership will save you money there too. By using these two benefits, you will be able to have a little more spending money.

For a complete list of the benefits offered to you through the Kane County Farm Bureau, please call us at 630-584-8660 or visit www.kanecfb.com

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

What's new in the COUNTRY agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Richard Bristow, Agency Manager

Donna Tonovitz has been named Agent of the Month for January 2007 in the St. Charles Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Richard Bristow. Donna has been an Agent with COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services since July 2004. She previously worked for COUNTRY as a production assistant from 1987 to 1993. Donna services her clients from her office located at 40W099 Rt. 64, Unit C, in Campton Square, Wasco. You may reach her at (630) 587-7440. **Aurora Agency, Jackie Meier, Agency Manager**

Agent Jim McGuigan of the Aurora Agency has earned the "Agent of the Month" status for the month of January 2007. Only 2 months into the year, Jim has already surpassed his annual goal for financial credits by winning the business of a 401K rollover. This is a great accomplishment for Jim. Jim began his career with COUNTRY Insurance and Financial Services in December 2002. His office is located at: 444 Eola Road, Suite 101, Aurora, 60502 and may be reached at (630) 851-0620.

Elgin/Schaumburg Agency, Jack Smith, Agency Manager

Bernie Gaston has been

named "Career Agent of the Month" for January 2007. Bernie has been an agent with COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services since February 2002. His office is located at 763 S. Eighth, West Dundee, Elgin. His phone number is (847) 428-7147.

David Kujawa has been named "Employee Agent of the Month" for January 2007. David has been an agent with COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services since December 2005. His office is located at 1814 Grandstand Place, Elgin, 60123. His phone number is (847) 742-0001.

Long's Barn

(continued from page 1)

Griswold, owner of Griswold Feed Store on Prairie Street in Aurora, he said.

"I didn't know how to dance when I first came here. The girls that came here taught me how," Laird said. And he did not remember the paintings on the walls "because I was too busy looking at the girls."

"I remember this as being a real fun place. Everybody had a great time," Laird said as he looked around the cavernous room. "It was not just dancing, but we did a lot of socializing," Vernita added.

They were married the same month the barn was closed.

Vernita said their favorite band was Bub and his Boys and their favorite song was "Jambalaya." Phyllis recalled Duffy's Band playing "Jambalaya" a lot because it was a favorite of her husband.

Laird said Bub's band also played at the Sandwich Fair and at the Blue Moon in Elgin. Vernita said she never saw anyone at the barn get rowdy, or drunk. "It was a unique place. There was not another one like it," Laird said.

Vernita's father Vince ran a farm for Harry Schoger in the area of Galena Boulevard and Hanks Road, west of Aurora. A subdivision and golf course now occupy that land. Laird was born on his parent's farm on Wooley Road in rural Oswego where he has lived his entire life. He and Vernita have run the farm since they were married.

Laraine Griswold, 88, owner of Griswold Feed and Seed

Store in Aurora, also has fond memories of the barn. "I went there for many years while I lived in Yorkville," he said.

"I remember dancing with Phyllis. She and her husband Bob stop in here quite often. When they do I always ask her if she's ready to dance. She laughs and says, 'Oh no. I'm too old for that stuff.' 'I knew the Long family quite well,'" he added.

Griswold said he did not meet his wife Marian Hann of Somonauk at the dance, but took her there a lot. "We had a good group of people who went there every week," he said.

Bob remembered a St. Charles man visiting the barn 10-15 years ago to see where his aunt and uncle met. "He said he visited them in Texas and they told him they met at Long's Barn in Kaneville, so he came out to see it and take pictures to send to his aunt," Bob said.

Phyllis recalled a woman named Marguerite from Aurora who stopped by to talk to them. "Her husband worked on my uncle's farm and tended bar for my dad at the barn. I think she met her second husband here."

Bob said a newly wed couple from Naperville, who didn't have enough money for a honeymoon, spent their honeymoon at the barn dancing. She stopped by some years later and said her husband had since died.

Phyllis showed a card she received some time ago from Dorothy Weisbrock of Sycamore who said she met her husband Roy at the barn. The woman wrote that she was with a group of girls from Elburn and "met these good dancers from Batavia and enjoyed the circle 2

steps and dances which I did with my future father-in-law Fred Weisbrock." She and Roy were married in 1942 and had ten children, she wrote.

Phyllis said her dad went to Doty's, a business in Sycamore to make a purchase. "The owner said 'I should have shot you. That's where I met my wife'. He and dad then had lunch together," she said.

The dances were advertised in the *Aurora Beacon-News*, but the largest crowds probably came from word-of-mouth advertising. Long's Barn and its reputation for match-making was so well known in the area it has been occasionally mentioned in obituaries.

When Ruth Evelyn Anderson, 84, of Elburn died on Nov. 17, 2005, her obituary in the *Kane County Chronicle* said, "Like many others of her generation, she and Al Anderson met at a dance at Long's Barn."

Bob said a man and his wife stopped one day before taking his parents to Fisherman's Inn for their 50th anniversary. He said the parents, from Sycamore, met at the barn and he asked if he could bring them to the barn after they ate.

"We said it would be fine. They wanted the whole family to be here to surprise the parents, so we let them hide their cars behind the barn and wait for the couple upstairs. "When the son drove the parents by, one of them saw the barn and said this was where they met. The son suggested they stop by and ask to go in. They did and were surprised by the family waiting for them," he said.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

1994 Pontiac Grand Prix, 158,500 miles, runs great but needs body work, \$1,000 OBO. Call: 815-756-5796

1998 Pontiac GrandAm GT, 2-door coupe. One owner car, very clean! Runs but needs motor work, \$2,500 OBO. Call: 815-756-5796

AKC Registered Farm Raised Yellow Lab Puppies. Both parents are wonderful farm dogs and are on site for your inspection. Raised with children. First shots, dew-claws removed, dewormed twice. \$650. Call: 630-365-5927

CKC Registered Farm Raised Jack Russell Terrier Puppies. Both parents are wonderful farm dogs and are on site for your inspection. Raised with children. First shots, tails docked and dew-claws removed, dewormed twice. Colorful and short coat. \$400. Call: 630-365-5927

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

Aurora Township, 7-room brick ranch house, enclosed sun room, finished basement w/kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 car garage, large wooded lot, \$234,900. Call: 630-631-5072

23 ft. 2002 Starcraft Travel trailer (hybrid), sleeps 8. 6ft. slide-out, full bath w/tub & shower, full

kitchen complete w/microwave. Stereo w/CD player, AC, furnace, hot water, lots of storage. Excellent condition asking \$11,500 OBO. Call John - 847-695-3684

JD RM 6-row cultivator w/ rolling shields. \$200. Call: 630-557-2517

SERVICES

Bath and kitchen remodeling, walk-in bath tub sales, accessibility improvements. Call Access Remodelers - 630-587-1689

Tutoring in all subjects, K-12 and adults. Speed reading, A.C.T. prep, study skills, specializing in learning disabilities & A.D.D. Call Dr. Karen Kletzing - 630-761-9098

R & S Motorsports, Authorized Polaris & Ranger dealer. We service all makes & models of ATV's, motorcycles, snowmobiles. Mention Kane County Farm Bureau & get 10% off parts. Call: 815-337-7270

WANTED

Music for accordion, fake book, music from '50's & '60's. Call: 630-377-2260

Gamma, Grandpa and Grandson need to rent motor home 15 to 18 ft. for one week in April. Will pay rental fee and insure. Hope to visit great-grandparents. Call Bob - 630-927-0383

FOR RENT

Sarasota, FL. 2B/2B Condo, July-October, Weekly & Monthly Rates. Call: 630-202-4247

Shop the Kane
County Farmer
classifieds!



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.

HELP WANTED

COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services

is looking for part-time office help in our Wasco, IL office.
Computer Knowledge Helpful • Customer Service • Agent Assistance
25-30 hours per week. Flexible hours.

Fax resume to 630-584-0023. Attn: Angela

YOUNG LEADER CONFERENCE

By Brenna Burnett



February was filled with lots of Farm Bureau activities! The first week in February, I had the opportunity to travel to Springfield for the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Conference. The weekend was filled with sessions, guest speakers and of course a lot of fun.

The Young Leader Conference helped all of us learn about agriculture throughout the state and share ideas and information. It is a unique experience to get to see a large group of young farmers looking towards the future of agriculture. Since I have friends from all around the state, an agricultural conference is just what it takes to get all of us together.

Kane County was well represented at the conference with six Young Farmers from throughout the county attending. Also attending was Board Director Al Lenkaitis, who represents District I Young Leaders for Illinois Farm Bureau.

We were able to attend sessions on everything from Updates

with Landscape to Nitrogen & Fertilizer Management. There really was something to interest everyone regardless of what area of production agriculture involves you and your family. Our Young Farmers also participated in the County Feud Game, where counties compete against each other in a family feud like game. The group enjoyed an ice cream social and keynote addresses from President Nelson, Young Leader Chairs and Matt Rush a Young Leader from Southern Illinois.

As I mentioned, February has been a busy month, but many activities are on the horizon for March. The Farm Bureau looks forward to having two Young Farmers attend the Southwest Texas Tour, Kane County FFA Members attending the IFB Youth Conference and of course Agricultural Literacy activities such as Ag Days & Touch-a-Tractor. This spring will sure be busy; I know all of you are also looking forward to the arrival of some good weather and spring planting.

Top recruiters for the month of Jan.

Each month, Kane County Farm Bureau honors the person or persons who sign the most members into our organization. For January, we would like to congratulate Ted Schuster, Bob Kearns, and Michael O'Brien. Each has signed 13 new members to be named top recruiters for January 2007.



Ted Schuster has been an agent with COUNTRY's St. Charles Agency since March 2005. Ted serves clients from his office located at 32 Cross

St., Sugar Grove, 60554. You may reach Ted at 630-466-9600.



Bob Kearns has been an agent with COUNTRY's St. Charles Agency since January 1981. Bob serves clients from his office located at 892 LaFox Rd Sugar Grove, 60177. You may reach Bob at 847-888-3200.



Michael O'Brien has been an agent with COUNTRY's St. Charles Agency since January

2004. Michael's office is located at 201 Houston Suite #120, Batavia, 60510. You may reach him at 630-879-6011.

As a token of our appreciation, Ted, Bob, and Michael will receive a 5 pound box of delicious pork chops from Inboden's Meats in DeKalb, supplier of our monthly specials for Farm Bureau members. Thank you, Ted, Bob, and Michael for your continued support of Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success.

Springtime for Ethanol

That was a recent headline on an article in the New York Times. It provides an interesting historical perspective on the development of ethanol, but more importantly it shows how far ethanol has come.

Nearly 30 years ago ethanol barely registered in the consciousness of many farmers, let alone the general public. Getting positive attention from the national media was far flung from reality. Then a funny thing happened. A few strong willed believers began an ethanol promotion mission.

In Illinois, farmers like Fred Werts and energy independence missionaries like Al Mavis extolled the virtues of corn based fuel. Before the oil companies had an opportunity to really bash ethanol, they had personal vehicles running on the fuel.

Before technology and Marion Webster invented the term Flexible Fuel Vehicle or E85, they had a trusty Ford running on straight ethanol. For slow learners, they drove that car on ethanol for more than 200,000 miles to make a point. One of the earliest converts to ethanol was the fledgling Illinois Corn Growers Association. They picked up the ethanol banner in the early 1970's and although they made progress, it was tough going.

Oil was cheap and seemed like it would stay that way forever. Then the Middle East figured out if you choked off supply you could make prices dance like John Travolta on Starbucks. For the next two

decades, each time oil prices surged or new studies pointed out the environmental problems with gasoline, ethanol took another step forward.

Some times those steps were bigger than others and in many cases the steps were bigger than they might have been because of a secret weapon called corn checkoff. In 1982 Illinois corn growers realized they had an opportunity to push ethanol forward but it would take a bigger investment of time and money.

In 1983, growers passed the Illinois Corn Marketing Act which began the corn checkoff program in the state. For the last 24 years growers have invested 1/4-cent per bushel to push market development overseas, new product creation at home, educate the public on corn's contributions to their quality of life and the economy.

Although the corn producers administering the checkoff fund (the Illinois Corn Marketing Board) were involved in broad programming here and abroad, ethanol became the poster child for checkoff success.

That's likely because the fight for ethanol has often been epic and public. Grassroots growers squared off against big oil to chisel away at a new market for corn. Growers decided that if corn production was going to be profitable they needed to go after feed, fiber and food markets and raise the bar by expanding it to fuel.

Along the way, corn checkoff funded research made ethanol production more efficient and competitive with gasoline.

Studies were funded to refute unfair and often spurious claims by big oil that ethanol would harm your engine, make your tires fall off and end democracy as we know it. Now here we are today with a market that has grown from 175 million gallons in 1980 to more than five billion gallons today. Predictions call for that to potentially double again in the next few years.

Now, instead of making believers of political leaders and the public and chiseling out a place for ethanol, the biggest issue facing us today may well be growing enough corn to meet the demand. While a great public debate continues on that issue, and pundits wail about our corn supply, I hope people like Fred Werts, Rollie Main (an early ICGA president) and his fellow board members, and all of the Illinois Corn Marketing Board Directors who devoted years of their lives to getting us to this place in time are smiling with great contentment. This is a "problem" hard earned by corn growers and their organizations.

As ethanol expands, Bob Dinneen of the Renewable Fuels Association tells the Times he dismisses the concerns of some economists that its explosive growth could threaten exports and livestock prices and that a potential investment bubble could burst before cellulosic ethanol has a chance to hit the market.

"I don't get all that worried that we are building too fast," he said. "I am not bright enough or foolish enough to try to control the market."

Trivia that Energizes!

What United States landmark is lit by wind energy?

A. Statue of Liberty

What is the average size of a wind turbine blade?

- A. 20 feet
- B. 100 feet
- C. 200 feet
- D. 1000 feet

Wind power plants require a minimum average wind speed. What is it?

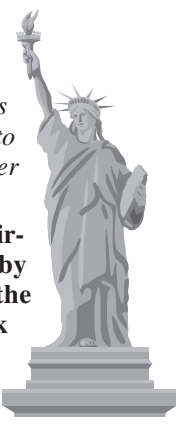
- A. 92
- B. 54
- C. 13 mph
- D. 3 mph

All machines make noise. The sound a modern wind turbine makes is commonly compared to what household appliance?

- A. Refrigerator
- B. Teenager's radio
- C. Washing machine
- D. Alarm clock

Today's wind turbines have gotten quieter. The blades rotate 20 times per minute as opposed to the older turbines that rotate 400 to 500 times per minute.

In 1947, an aircraft fueled by ethanol was the first to break the speed of sound. Who was the pilot?



(continued on page 8)

Cleaner Engines, Better Performance



Available Exclusively at Conserv FS, Inc. (800)924-9942 · www.conservfs.com

Get energized during National Ag Week

Spring means green! But for Illinois farmers, it means more than the kind of green that comes with new plants. It means the earth-friendly green, too. Renewable energy and farming are a winning combination. Biomass, wind, and solar energy can be harvested domestically and forever, benefiting the environment in efficient and exciting ways.

Crop (Biomass) Fuel & Energy: Most Illinois farmers produce renewable energy by growing the crops they have always grown. Corn-based ethanol and soybean-based biodiesel can be blended with petroleum-based gasoline and diesel to combust more com-

pletely. This reduces toxic air emissions and greenhouse gas buildup. Together, ethanol and biodiesel have made the largest U.S. renewable energy source every year since 2000.

Other times, biomass energy comes from "left-overs." The whey from cheese production and manure from livestock operations can also be used to produce energy, too. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, tripling U.S. use of biomass energy could reduce global warming emissions by the same amount as taking 70 million cars off the road.

Wind Power: The first heyday of wind power in America

lasted from 1870 to 1930, when thousands of farmers used the wind to pump water and generate power. The second heyday is just beginning, but there is one big difference. Instead of generating electricity for themselves, today's farmers are harnessing the wind for everyone, from the small town schools to the city of Chicago.

With small sections of corn fields or cow pastures leased to a windmill company, farmers are finding the same wind that dries their crops can power a large, sleek wind turbine, which in turn, can power 600 American households.

Solar Energy: The amount of energy from the sun that reaches Earth each day is enormous. All the energy stored in Earth's

(continued on page 8)



No time to chill: Crop farmers have winter to-do lists

It was a 10-degree February day and my farming parents deserved a couple weeks along Florida's beaches. Instead, they worked from the warmth of a dining room table covered in farm bookwork.

The three to four months between fall tillage and spring planting seems the time for my corn- and soybean-growing family to hibernate in southern Texas. But winter's months are filled with budgeting, bookwork, reading research articles, attending seminars, and selecting the coming year's crop vari-

eties and nutrient plans.

It's winter and most people realize farmers who raise livestock are feeding and watering their animals daily, regardless of the season. The wonder is with the crop side of farming. What work is there to do in winter when crops won't grow?

My parents spent a Monday on bookwork to prepare for a visit to their tax man. Tuesday was the tillage seminar, where my dad and brother learned trends in soil tillage, the impact of climate change and conservation methods. In a week, we take a two-day trip to a farm equipment show. Last month was the commodity workshop, county Farm Bureau annual meeting, pesticide license exam and marketing meeting.

Just as a kid's summer schedule fills with ball games and camps, a farmer's winter calendar is packed with meetings, educational workshops and seminars to make them

KANE COUNTY FARMER

more profitable in the field. The information helps when farmers spend the rest of winter's days selecting crop varieties and management plans. They study the characteristics of corn and soybean varieties to decide what seeds to plant in the spring. Decisions for the entire year are made about fertilizer and pesticides to make the plants healthy.

My farming family also discusses the topics over supper, which tends to be eaten earlier in the evening this time of year. Many farmers shorten their workdays in winter when daylight hours are short. That means we can catch a favorite weekly television show. My uncle attends his son's high school basketball games. My grandparents take a trip to sunny California. And my parents sometimes go out for supper, which is left to a rainy day other seasons of the year. Or when the dinner table is covered with bookwork.

Ag Week

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reserves of coal, oil, and natural gas is equal to the energy from only 20 days of sunshine.

Free of tall buildings and smog, farmers have learned to use the sun to increase self-

Trivia

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Chuck Yeager

Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager became the first pilot to fly to Mach 1, the speed of sound. At 43,000 feet, Yeager's Bell X-1-1 aircraft broke the so-called "sound barrier," burning a combination of ethanol, liquid oxygen, and nitrogen.

What business tycoon owns 25% of an ethanol plant?

- A. Oprah Winfrey
- B. Donald Trump
- C. Hugh Hefner
- D. Bill Gates

Gates owns interest in Pacific Ethanol, Inc.

What was the first mass-produced flex-fuel vehicle?

Model T

In 1908, almost 100 years ago, Henry Ford manufactured the world first mass-produced flex-fuel vehicle, the Model T, designed to run on ethanol, gasoline, or a combination of both.

Last year, cars in the Indianapolis 500 used a fuel that blended with 10% ethanol. This year the percentage is going to increase to what?

- A. 20% ethanol
- B. 45% ethanol
- C. 85% ethanol
- D. 100% ethanol

The high-profile IndyCar Series will use 100% ethanol this year because of its high-octane performance.

When manure from farm animals decomposes, it also produces a gas, which can be burned as an energy source. What is this gas called?

Methane gas

What celebrity is on the board of directors for a biodiesel company?

- A. Willie Nelson
- B. Julia Roberts
- C. Morgan Freeman
- D. All of the Above

All three are board members of Earth Biofuels, a Dallas-based alternative energy company specializing in biodiesel.

reliance, reduce pollution, and cut production costs. Solar heat collectors dry crops and warm homes, livestock buildings, and greenhouses. Solar water heaters provide hot water for dairy operations, pen cleaning, and homes. Plus solar electric panels power everything from remote water pumps to electric fences.

Farm Bill: Much of the U.S. Farm Bill is dedicated to social programs such as food stamps and WIC, but part of it is devoted to boosting energy through

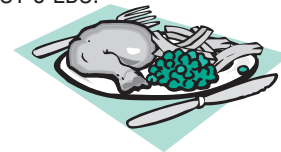
agriculture. Federal incentives are available to invest in renewable energy systems.

Illinois Farm Bureau asks that on March 20, the first day of spring, you recall it is National Agriculture Day. Remember that soon farmers will take to the fields to plant corn and soybeans that will be turned into fuel for cars, busses, and more. Some farmers will plant around wind turbines or solar panels too. No wonder Illinois farmers like to think "green."

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU Product List

Prices subject to change without notice

PRODUCT	"MM" or "A+"	"A"
CLEARANCE - WHILE THEY LAST		
BBQ SAUCE	\$1.00	\$1.00
BUTTER TOFFEE PEANUTS 12 OZ	\$2.00	\$2.00
HONEY KRUNCH 11 OZ (while they last)	\$1.00	\$1.00
NUTS		
PECAN HALVES, 1 LB BAG	\$7.00	\$7.50
CINNAMON GLAZED PECANS, 12 OZ. BAG	\$6.00	\$6.50
CHOCOLATE PECAN CLUSTERS, 12 OZ. BAG	\$6.00	\$6.50
PORK SPICE 12 OZ	\$4.50	\$4.75
POPCORN		
YELLOW, 2 LB BAG	\$2.25	\$2.50
MEAT		
CHICKEN FLORENTINE <i>Special</i>	\$19.00	\$20.00
SURF & TURF (just reduced!)	\$32.00	\$32.00
TILAPIA, 5 LBS.	\$17.50	\$18.50
BOURBON STEAKS, 5 LBS.	\$25.00	\$26.00
PORK CHOPS BONELESS 5 LBS.	\$22.00	\$23.00
PORK CHOPS BONE-IN, 5 LBS.	\$22.00	\$23.00
CHICKEN BREAST 5 LBS.	\$18.50	\$19.50
BURGERS	\$15.00	\$16.00
SOIL TEST		
SOIL TEST 1	\$12.00	\$20.00 non
SOIL TEST 4	\$20.00	\$30.00 non
SOIL TEST 3	\$30.00	\$40.00 non
CANDLES		
Small	\$4.50	\$5.00
Large 16 oz.	\$10.00	\$10.50
Large 21 oz.	\$11.00	\$11.50
PLAT BOOKS - KANE COUNTY	\$50.00	\$50.00
THEATER TICKETS - Charlestowne 18	\$6.00	\$6.00
SMV SIGNS		
Individual sign	\$5.50	
Kit	\$12.50	



Touch-a-Tractor

(Bringing the Farm to the City!)

Live Bluegrass 2-5 p.m. Saturday

Kids Scavenger Hunt w/ Free Drinks & Hot Dog Prizes

Petting Zoo & Local Farm Market Promotions

Kid's Games

Free! Pedal Tractor Drawing for Kids 8 & under

New & Antique Farm Equipment

Friday, March 30

9am-5pm

Saturday, March 31

10am-6pm 4pm Raffle Drawing

for this restored Super H Tractor or a new John Deere riding mower



at the KCFB, Randall Road at Oak Street, St. Charles

Call the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 for additional information.