



KANE
COUNTY

CULTIVATOR



Promoting sound Public Policy for the future of agriculture in Kane County.

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

APRIL, 2006



On July 1, a new law goes into effect that all local governments use a minimum 2% biodiesel blend when fueling from a bulk central refueling facility. More than a few Kane County local governments have beat this deadline. In fact, all those listed on the Honor Roll

on this page also **exceed** the 2% minimum. Plato Township is at a 20% biodiesel blend!

These are the types of public policy decisions this newsletter hopes to encourage, and recognize. So to our Farm Bureau members, PLEASE thank those public officials who pro-actively adopted biofuels use. And to those pro-active local officials among our readers, many, many THANKS!

Steve Arnold, Editor



Gary Larsen (l), Director of Public Works for the City of Batavia and Donald Gatske (r) Assistant Director are shown next to a Batavia public works truck. Batavia switched in January to burning B5, 5% biodiesel. Thanks Batavia!

Local Governments Switch to Biodiesel

The Kane County Board recognized the importance of using alternative fuel sources by switching to a 5-percent mix of biodiesel in their diesel vehicles and equipment used by the Department of Transportation. "At this point in time, it is evident that biodiesel fuels are the way of the future for diesel engines. What

started as an "alternative" fuel has really become mainstream, and we believe it will be increasingly important in the future," stated Kane County Board member and Transportation Committee Chair Jan Carlson of Elburn.

The County Board knew making this switch was a significant step toward reducing dependence on finite natural resources. Fueling their fleet with biodiesel, along with their support and use of other alternative fuel, is a direct way for the County to support the continued

viability of agricultural businesses in the community.

The City of Batavia, like Kane County, also switched the city's trucks and public works vehicles to a biodiesel blend, joining the County, City of Aurora and several Kane County Townships in promoting energy security and a healthier environment while supporting the local farm economy.

Currently Batavia is using a 5-percent blend, but plans over the next year to move to a higher blend, eventually reaching 20-percent.

Issue features:

- Werden Farm Chosen for "Harvest Picnic" p. 2
- Wheat Harvest Rides for Public Officials p. 2
- Environmental Activist Sees the Light p. 3
- Teacher Tour Set for June p. 3
- Farm Bureau Local Priorities for 2006 p. 4
- IFB State Legislative Priorities p. 4

Save the Date:

The Kishwaukee Dairy Herd Improvement Association will sponsor a June 17 **DeKalb-Kane Dairy Breakfast** from 7-11 a.m. at the farm of Dale & Linda Drendel on Walker Road near Hampshire. Advance tickets are \$5 and available only at the Kane County Farm Bureau. Call today to reserve your tickets! 630 584-8660.

OUR MISSION:

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THE QUALITY OF
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PROMOTE
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Biofuels "Honor-Roll"

Kane County Farm Bureau salutes these Kane County local governments for promoting a healthy environment and energy security while providing a market for Kane County farm products by using corn and soybean based biofuels for public vehicles.

Kane County Division of Transportation

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| City of Aurora | City of Batavia |
| Virgil Township | Plato Township |
| Blackberry Township | Kaneville Township |
| St. Charles Township | Big Rock Township |

Second "Harvest Evening" Planned for September

Werdin Farm to host 2nd Annual Program for local policymakers

Kane County Farm Bureau's first "Harvest Evening On The Farm" for legislators and local government officials was such a success, the organization's Governmental Affairs and Public Policy Committee is busy planning a follow up. Public officials at the first program enjoyed an evening visiting with local farmers and specialty crop producers on September 25, 2005 at the Alan and Gayle Volpp farm south of Burlington.

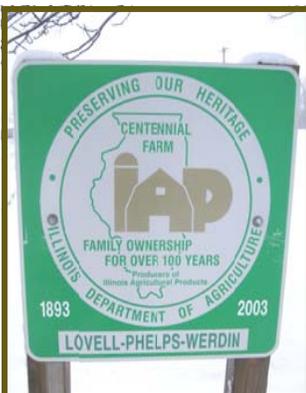
David and Lynette Werdin's farm south of Kaneville has been chosen to host the 2nd annual "Harvest Evening". In

addition to being a Centennial Farm, the Werdin Farm has been protected through the County's Farmland Protection Program. At 322 acres, it is the largest contiguous parcel accepted in to the

County's voluntary program to date. The Werdin's sold the development right to the County in July of 2004.

The Harvest Evening will bring together public officials and FB farmer-leaders to foster a better understanding of the importance of agriculture in our communities and the importance of working together.

The Committee is planning the second Harvest Evening event for early September.



A Sign of Longevity, this sign marks the Werdin Family Farm as an Illinois "Centennial Farm", owned by the same family for over 100 years.



Ring In Spring?

Winter's last snow clings to a brass bell on the Werdin Family farmstead south of Kaneville on Dauberman Road. With Welch Creek crossing the farm's fields and pastures in front, and these decades old - well maintained traditional farm buildings in the rear, this farmstead will be a picturesque site for the Bureau's second "Harvest Evening" for local officials come September.

KCFB to Offer Combine Rides During Wheat Harvest



It seemed like a good idea at the time. As planning for the Farm Bureau's first Harvest Evening was progressing during the summer of 2005, someone suggested we offer combine rides to public officials, let them see first hand the effects of drought on Kane County's crops.

On September 25, the day of the Picnic, Mother Nature had other plans. On one of the few rainy evenings of 2005, as host farmer Alan Volpp's combine sat waiting, the wind came up and the rain came down. No combine rides that night!

Although we did have many public officials sign-up that evening for later combine rides,

the lateness of the event in September, coupled with a short crop, meant that most farmers wrapped up harvest before the combine rides could be coordinated. So, we're trying again.

As they did last fall, the Kane County farmers listed on the facing page are offering legislators and local public officials the opportunity to get a farmer's eye view of harvest. This time it will be wheat harvest (mid-July).

Local public officials who would like to learn more about farm life or just want to experience harvest on the farm, can call any of these farmers directly (see facing page) or contact the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630 584-8660.

Harvest Behemoth Is Not Just for Kids!!

Kids love big farm equipment, like Kane County farmer Bruce Nagel's 9660STS John Deere combine shown here at the Farm Bureau's 22nd annual AgDays program (held March 7-9 at Mooseheart). That's why after 3 days and 2,200 4th graders, Nagel and other farmers allowed Farm Bureau to borrow farm equipment for an additional two days for "Touch - A - Tractor", a community service and education program held on the Farm Bureau lawn in St. Charles.

While the kids couldn't get a real life demonstration of the combine in operation, Farm Bureau is making that offer to local public officials. See accompanying story for details.



Environmentalist outlines his “sensible” vision

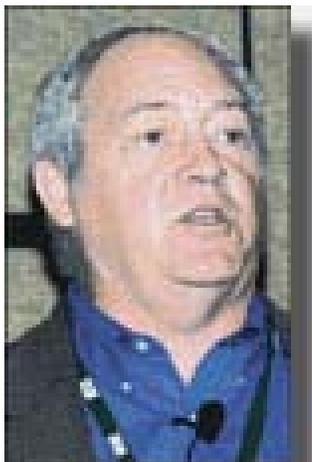
Former Greenpeace activist Patrick Moore outlined his vision for “Environmentalism in the 21st Century” during the American Farm Bureau Federation’s 87th annual meeting.

Moore, who calls himself “the sensible environmentalist,” said the environment is in better shape than some extreme environmental groups would have the public think, and the agriculture industry must invest more time, money and energy to push back against environmental myths.

However, he said, there are problems that should be addressed, including reducing fossil fuel use through increased nuclear energy, focusing on renewable materials and energy, using biotechnology to produce more food on less

land, controlling urban sprawl and reversing deforestation in the tropics.

Although a founding member of Greenpeace, Moore’s views began to diverge from those of the organization in the 1980s, he said, when the environmental movement was hijacked by political extremists whose positions were not based on science or even common sense.



Former Greenpeace activist Patrick Moore, a featured speaker at the 87th Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, held January 10-13 in Nashville, Tennessee.

“For me, it was time to make a change. I had been against at least three or four things every day of my life for 15 years,” he said. “I decided I’d like to be in favor of something for a change. I made the transition from the politics of confrontation – telling people what they should stop doing – to trying to find consensus about what we should do instead.”

Some of the things Moore said he was in favor of might be anathema to many of today’s environmental activists: things like using biotechnology to address hunger and disease in poor countries.

“There is no getting away from the fact that over 6 billion people wake up every morning on this planet with real needs for food, energy and materials,” he said. “Sustainability, which I believe is the next logical step after environmental activism, is about continuing to provide for those needs – maybe even getting some more stuff for people in poor countries – while at the same time reducing our negative environmental impact.”

“For me, it was time to make a change. I had been against at least three or four things every day of my life for 15 years.”

Patrick Moore

Wheat Harvest Combine Rides

Local public officials can contact these Kane County farmers to schedule July harvest time rides in combines. Alternatively, contact the Kane County Farm Bureau, at 630 584-8660 and a farm visit and a wheat harvest combine ride will be arranged for you.

Steve Pitstick, Maple Park, 630 816-6387

Bob Gehrke, Elgin, 847 436-2538

Joe White, Elburn, 630 557-2517

Mike Kenyon, South Elgin, 847 741-1818

Alan Volpp, Burlington, 847 683-3681

Steve Ruh, Big Rock, 630 466-3854

Karl Kettelkamp, Kaneville, 630 557-2713

Chris Gould, Maple Park, 630 557-2319

John Kriegel, Hampshire, 847 683-2705

Gene Feldott, Aurora, 630 892-2197

AgTech Tour for Teachers 2006



KCFB’s 7th “AgTech Tour for Teachers” will provide an opportunity for K-12 teachers to experience the variety of Kane County agriculture including production, processing, horticultural sciences, engineering, marketing and R&D.

Helping teachers grasp the scope and importance of our industry provides the tools they need to relay this information to their classes. Offered in cooperation with the Kane County Regional Office of Education, the June 26-30 class also qualifies for graduate credit through Aurora University, or continuing education credits. For more information, call 630 584-8660.

Kane County Farm Bureau Local Priorities for 2006

At their January meeting, the Board of Directors of the Kane County Farm Bureau adopted three local priorities for the organization to focus its efforts in 2006. Based on a recommendation from the organization's Governmental Affairs and Public Policy Committee the three issues chosen for 2006 are:

- Promoting locally grown agricultural products and producers through print and electronic media.
- Providing members assistance in growing Agritourism in Kane County.
- Promoting the use of alternative, bio-based fuels by units of local government and the general public.



Illinois Farm Bureau State Legislative Priorities

Seek passage of the Illinois Renewable Fuels Standards Act.

Support legislation that would prohibit the ability to have

private and agricultural land taken for economic development purposes through eminent domain.

Support every attempt to maintain all funding levels of agricultural programs within the current tax structure.

Support legislation to narrow the ability to file a nuisance lawsuit against livestock facilities.

Support legislation providing reasonable compensation to land owners for oil, gas, and mining withdrawal disturbances and damage.

Support the business coalition wetlands proposal.

Seek legislation that limits the term of county/municipal boundary agreements to five years in length and subjects such agreements to public notice and public hearing.

A jubilant Kane County Board Chair, Karen McConaughay hoists her Food Check-Out Day trophy following the February 2 Shopping Spree in Batavia. McConaughay, and her competitor State's Attorney John Barsanti, collected \$1,700 in groceries for local food pantries in five minutes! In five years, Kane County public officials have collected over \$7,000 in groceries for local food pantries through this Farm Bureau sponsored program.



"On behalf of the 270 families we serve each month, my thanks to the Kane County Farm Bureau for choosing Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry to receive groceries collected at Jewel-Osco on February 2."

**Peter Hansen,
Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry**

Direct questions, comments about the *Cultivator* to Kane County Farm Bureau at 630 584-8660 or info@kanecfb.com



American Farm Bureau Federation 2006 National Legislative Priorities

Energy & Transportation

Expanding domestic energy supplies
Reauthorize the Water Resources Development Act

Environment & Land Use

Reform the Endangered Species Act
Maintain availability, use of ag inputs
Prevent government use of eminent domain for economic development

Farm Policy

Protect integrity of the 2002 farm bill

Immigration and Farm Labor

Ensure a legal workforce for farms

Trade

Increase agricultural exports

Complete WTO negotiations

Taxes

Cut capital gains taxes
Eliminate death taxes

Animal Agriculture

Prevent regulation of manure under Superfund laws

Implement the national animal ID system

Issue sensible Clean Water Act regulations that affect Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations.

Kane County Farm Bureau

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