



KANE
COUNTY

CULTIVATOR



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

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER, 2006

Mid-Year Report

On the heels of a near-miss that would have taxed farm inputs, Farm Bureau began 2006 with a commitment to “establish fiscal and regulatory policies in Illinois that create a positive business climate and stimulate economic growth.” At the half-way point on the legislative calendar, we are pleased to share success stories that help keep Illinois agriculture as profitable as possible:

Protected State Ag Budget – Not only did Farm Bureau help protect farm-related items in the State of Illinois budget, it also helped improve some line items. There is now more funding for conservation, ag research, farm safety, and ag education.

Improved Renewable Fuels Biz Options – FB helped slate \$20 million

for ethanol and biodiesel plant construction. We also supported a bill that offers a technical definition of ethanol. The bill was sent to the Governor.

Kept Trucks Truckin’– FB helped permanently remove “hours of service” restrictions for farm suppliers. This exemption allows truckers to work the unusual hours that farmers work. This is great news for many, from dairy farmers to anhydrous suppliers

“De-Bugged” Restrictions – After hearing FB’s opposition, a bill restricting online purchases of pesticides was amended and passed through both the House and Senate. It has been sent to the Governor for his signature.

To learn more about what Farm Bureau has done for its members lately, call our office at 630 584-8660.



The Fence Post

Sound public policy for any industry requires an understanding, on the part of government officials at all levels, of that industry’s unique challenges, opportunities and contributions to society. It also requires public understanding, and public support.

The volunteer leaders of your Kane County Farm Bureau carry out the lion’s share of the ‘education’ of public officials. But opportunities exist for all members to improve farmer image and share agriculture’s messages with the general public. Farm Bureau activities like Ag Days, Touch-a-Tractor and our new Harvest Demonstration Day provide an attentive audience, eager to learn about your industry and way of life. Want to share what you know? Contact us at 630 584-8660.

Steve Arnold, Editor

Issue features:

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Save the Date:

Representatives of Illinois’s Department of Public Health and Department of Agriculture will join Kane & DuPage County Health Department officials for an October 11 meeting with specialty crop growers at KCFB to discuss regulation of the sale of honey and processed foods at Farmers Markets and the sale of livestock and poultry on farms. The meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. Producers should RSVP to 630 584-8660.

Our Mission:

ENHANCE
THE QUALITY OF LIFE
FOR MEMBER
FAMILIES,
PROMOTE
ALL ASPECTS OF
AGRICULTURE AND
ADVOCATE
GOOD STEWARDSHIP
OF OUR LAND AND
RESOURCES.



Kane County Farm Bureau directors Chris Collins (l) of Wasco and Joe White (r) of Kaneville empty containers of used motor oil at a June 24 Oil Collection. Farm Bureau directors and Soil and Water Conservation District staff have volunteered their services at County sponsored environmental clean-ups since 1994 and have helped the County of Kane dispose of over 175,000 gallons of waste oil and 25,000 filters.

Legislative "Works in Progress"

ILLINOIS RENEWABLE FUELS STANDARD

Farm Bureau's State Legislative team continues to lay the ground work to seek passage of legislation providing for a long term solution for renewable fuels production in Illinois for either the upcoming Veto Session or the next spring Legislative Session. This will build upon the ground work laid for SB2236 in the spring session.

WIND GENERATION SIGHTING AND TAXATION

IFB Legislative Staff and Legal Counsel have been preparing for the issue of wind generation sighting and property assessment valuation of wind turbines. Rep. Mautino introduced legislation in the spring session of the General Assembly and continues to work on that issue. It is fully anticipated that this issue will be addressed in the spring 2007 session.

IEPA ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS LEGISLATION

The State Legislative Staff met with the Illinois Milk Producers Board of Directors to review the legislative background on SB 2333 that called for complainants to provide IEPA with their name and address when making a complaint regarding a livestock facility in Illinois. In an attempt to address some of the opposition with this concept a meeting with IEPA will be requested to attempt to find some common ground on the issue.

UNIVERSAL TRUCK ACCESS ON LOCAL ROADS

The issue of access on local roads is becoming contentious in several local areas. IFB will be concentrating on finding a legislative means to address farmer concerns within the confines of the opposition. One of the groups in ardent opposition to universal truck access are municipalities, especially the City of Chicago. The State Legislative team will work to see if some common ground on this issue can be reached.

Harvest Time Combine Rides

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 year, however, we are getting a jump on Mother Nature by beginning the scheduling process earlier and providing direct contact numbers for farmers in all parts of the County.



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 or contact the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630 584-8660.

Overweight Permits

As harvest season approaches, farmers are reminded to be aware of County and Township Road postings and plan harvest activities accordingly. Legislation passed in 2004 provides local road jurisdictions authority to issue **axle** overweight permits for certain divisible loads. However, permits may not be used to exceed standard **gross** weight limits. Also, under any form of permit, vehicle operators must abide by **posted** bridge and highway weight limits, both axle and gross.

Kane County Farm Bureau has discussed road posting with Township Highway Commissioners who have agreed to have their names and numbers listed in the issue of the *Cultivator*. If you have questions about a local road posting or wish to discuss permits, please contact your Commissioner at the number listed below.

Aurora	Fred Burgess	630/892-0246
Batavia	Chris Long	630/742-7587
Big Rock	Steve Bracket	630/556-4331
Blackberry	Rod Feece	630/365-9109
Burlington	Pete Hansen	847/683-4848
Campton	Sam Gallucci	630/365-9300
Dundee	Larry Braasch	847/426-0898
Elgin	Richard Burnidge	847/741-4637
Geneva	John Carlson	630/232-3604
Hampshire	Stan Walker	847/683-4485
Kaneville	Dennis Long	630/557-2773
Plato	Joe Hulke	847/464-5121
Rutland	Jay Schultz	847/428-6789
St. Charles	Ron Johnson	630/584-3496
Sugar Grove	Greg Huggins	630/466-4274
Virgil	Larry Peterson	815/827-3383



IFB District 1 Young Leaders Representative Albert Lenkaitis Jr. of St. Charles (above left) presented a check for \$1125 to the Northern Illinois Food Bank at the Kane County Fair. Accepting the check is Susan Erickson, Resource Development Director of the Food Bank. The donation was made by Illinois Farm Bureau in recognition of Young Farmer and Young Leader programs in Northern Illinois that benefit hunger relief agencies. Farm Bureau is a partner with America's Second Harvest, a nationwide network of business and agencies dedicated to eliminating hunger. The cow in the background was one of the original "Cows on Parade" from Chicago's 1999 public art exhibition. It was purchased by Kane County Farm Bureau by a donation to Heifer International at Geneva's Swedish

Success Stories

At the beginning of each year, Illinois Farm Bureau establishes a list of priorities that benefit Illinois farmers. One of the 2006 objectives reads: Win final passage of new locks and be a strong voice for lower taxes, immigration reform, and development of a farm bill that serves interests of farmers. Below are some recent successes in achieving this goal.

Made WRDA Action Request – Farmers across the state successfully asked their elected officials to limit the number of changes on the Water Resources Development Act so we can get on with the work of improving the infrastructure on Illinois and Mississippi River Locks and Dams.

Ensured Farm Input on River Issues – IFB supported the creation of the Mississippi River



Coordinating Council, which will work with local and state organizations regarding watershed, funding, and habitat concerns. The council includes agricultural representation and is waiting the Governor's approval.

Worked for Better Timberland Assessment – FB asked for a postponement of the assessments (for two-years), while a task force studies other options to address concerns. Right now wooded acres on farms are assessed at a rate six times higher than other timberlands.

Protected Filter Strip Assessment – Thanks to FB's efforts, the House and Senate extended the assessment value on filter strips until 2016. Filter strips will continue to be assessed at 1/6 of their productive value. The bill is waiting for the Governor's signature.

Explored Subsidy-Free Farming – About 20 Illinois farmers traveled to New Zealand to see how they have found success in eliminating farm payments.

Taught Teachers – Illinois Ag-in-the-Classroom used its Ag Awareness Conference to promote the importance of locks and dams to both farmers and consumers.



Promoted Livestock Production: – As part of the coalition making up the Illinois Livestock Development Group, Farm Bureau provided producers with advice on regulatory approval, financing, and other business expansion challenges. ILDG also created new consumer education materials and launched an advertising campaign to support Illinois livestock producers.

Hosted Equine Roundtable – Farm Bureau brought numerous ag organizations together to map directions for legislation and education.

Created Pork Ag Mag – Illinois Ag-in-the-Classroom created a "magazine" for school children that highlights Illinois' pork industry and animal welfare.

Farm Bureaus First "Harvest Demonstration Day" set for October 22

"From past to present, 100 years of Harvest Technology" is the theme for the Farm Bureau's first Harvest Demonstration Day, scheduled for Sunday, October 22 at Kuiper's Family Farm at the intersection of Keslinger and Watson Roads, Maple Park.

The Farm Bureau's Public Relations and Membership Committee is coordinating the event in cooperation with Kuiper's Family Farm, local implement dealers and Maple Park area farmer and former KCFB President Steve Pitstick, who raises the row crops on the Kuiper's farm. According to Bill Collins of Geneva, Chairman of the P.R. committee, the event will be "an opportunity for Farm Bureau members to see how technology has changed harvest operations over the last century, and how harvest works on a modern farm." "We hope to give our suburban members the opportunity to see up close what modern combines can do and how Illinois farmers harvest 20 million acres of crops each year."

The committees are also looking for ways to contrast modern methods with those practiced on Kane County farms through the years. Membership Committee Chair Randy Pauli is seeking area farmers to husk corn with a team and wagon as was the practice 100 years ago. Mid-century methods using a corn picker are also planned as is a corn shocking demonstration, wool spinning, hands-on agricultural activities and games for kids.



Harvest Demonstration Day activities are planned to occur throughout the day from 10 am to 6 pm. In addition to these activities, Kuiper's Family Farm has a variety of activities for families for a nominal fee inside their Scarecrow Acres. For more details on the farm's activities, go to www.kuipersfamilyfarm.com

A coupon in this month's *Farmer* entitles Farm Bureau members to 1/2 off admission to the Amazing Maize Maze at the farm during Harvest Demonstration Days on October 22. Watch next month's *Kane County Farmer* for more details on this event.

Harvest Combine Rides

Local public officials can contact these Kane County farmers to schedule harvest time rides in combines.

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



Get Out and VOTE!

Sadly for many Americans, the primary elections weren't deemed worth a visit to the polls. But in fact, many pressing local issues are determined during these springtime votes. That's why IFB launched a successful campaign to get farmers to the polls and make stands on pro-farm issues that impact their communities.

Farm Bureau makes "knowing your candidate" easier than ever before with updates to the *Legislative Action Center*. Found under the Issue section of IFB's website (ilfb.org), the Legislative Action Center is a one-stop location for all your voting needs: candidate backgrounds and voting records, registration forms, voter absentee information, and so much more. Best of all, all you need to get started is your zip code!

Watch for the *Voters' Handbook* this fall, with additional information for candidates statewide and voting records for incumbents. The *Voters Handbook* will be available in *Farm-Week*.

Chicago Students Visit Local Dairy Farm thru Adopt-a-Legislator Program

125 students from Nixon Elementary in Chicago had the opportunity to visit a farm for the very first time on May 31 thanks to a unique Farm Bureau program that matches urban lawmakers with rural county Farm Bureaus. The visit was suggested by State Senator Miguel del Valle of Chicago. Del Valle is a participant in Farm Bureau's Adopt-a-Legislator program and has been "adopted" by Cass-Morgan Farm Bureau in downstate Jacksonville.

Del Valle, had visited several downstate farms through the Farm Bureau program before suggesting the farm tour for the children from Nixon School. The school sits just a block from his northwestern Chicago District office. With the logistical problems of transporting the students all the way to Jacksonville, Cass-Morgan Farm Bureau approached IFB District 1 Director Mike Kenyon to host the tour. The tour was held May 31 at Kenyon Brothers Farm in South Elgin.



Jim Carleton, Cass-Morgan Farm Bureau Manager lets Nixon Elementary students get a close look at newborn dairy calves at the May 31 dairy farm tour at Kenyon Brothers Farm in South Elgin. For most of these Chicago school children, it was their first visit to a farm.

Four Election Dates You Should Know!

- October 10: Deadline to Register
- November 2: Deadline to Apply for Absentee Ballot
- November 6: Deadline for Absentee Voting
- November 7: Election Day

Biofuels "Honor-Roll"

- Kane County Division of Transportation
- City of Aurora City of Batavia
- Virgil, Plato, Blackberry, Kaneville, St. Charles, Big Rock, Dundee, Batavia, Campton, Aurora, Burlington, Elgin & Sugar Grove Townships

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 soy based biofuels for public vehicles.

The Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation is raffling this beautifully restored 1953 Farmall Super H to help raise money for college scholarships. Since 2000, the Foundation has contributed over \$75,000 towards higher education for Kane County students pursuing careers in agriculture.



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

Do you have a ticket?

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