

Calendar of Events

May 2025

May 5th – 9th –	Grow Your Own Food
May 12th –	Board Meeting 7:30 P.M.
May 13th –	Meat Order Deadline
May 22nd –	Meat Order Pick-Up
May 26th –	Memorial Day, DCFB Office Closed

Gearing up for 'Grow Your Own Food'

The Grow Your Own Food program is right around the corner! With 4,530 students currently signed up in DuPage County, it has taken a whole team to prepare for this educational program. Designed to educate children about the origins of their food, the program provides classrooms with tomato seedlings that students will take home and nurture into fruit-bearing plants over the summer.

This program wouldn't be possible without the generous donations of tools to

help grow these plants. We received wonderful tomato seeds from Ball Horticulture Company, five-gallon buckets from Ace Hardware, and reusable cups from 4-Imprint. We are grateful for their donations and so many others that have made this program possible. Many of our members have also donated water jugs that are included in the kits being delivered to classrooms across DuPage County in the first week of May.

Kara Norton, Kristina Baumbach, and volunteer Robin

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Kristina Baumbach and Robin Halicki packing bags with supplies.

— UPCOMING EVENTS —

Mark your calendars for these 2025 EVENTS

May 5th–9th –	Grow Your Own Food
July 24th–26th –	DuPage County Fair
July 26th –	Grow Your Own Food Judging at DuPage County Fair
Sept 10th –	Membership Appreciation Dinner

Farm. Family. Food.



Grab your family and join DuPage County Farm Bureau for our Agriculture Scavenger Hunt this summer!

Upload your photos from each category to our Google Form and be entered to win 1 of 3 cash prizes! Scan the QR Code below!

Items to Find & Photograph

- Barn
- Farmers Market Booth
- Grocery Store Aisle
- Products Containing Corn
- Farm Animals (Dogs and Cats do not count)
- Vegetable Garden
- Food Manufacturer
- Beehive
- Packet of Seeds
- Gas Pump

Contest ends July 31, 2025

Winners will be contacted early August

Photos may be used for DCFB promotional purposes



Grow Your Own

continued from page 1

Halicki have been working hard to plan for the program and prepare the GYOF bags being delivered to each classroom. Each bag has a watering jug, pots, scoopers, tablecloths, and trays for soil. Additionally, each student is receiving a growth chart, tomato recipes, and a free DuPage County Fair Pass when they bring their tomato plant. The tomato plant judging will take place at the Fair on July 26th. This program not only fosters hands-on learning but also cultivates a deeper understanding of agriculture and sustainability among our youth. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labor at the Fair!

We are partnering again with College of DuPage this year to grow the tomato seedlings used for the program! The growing process at College of DuPage has been going great. 52 trays of tomato seeds were planted by Laboratory Assistant, Jane Olsson, and a team of student volunteers. We would like to thank the volunteers Olivia Shetterly, Sati Holloway, Elizabeth Conner, Miranda Casey, Amber Ratcliff, and Paige Unterbrink for all their hard work planting the seeds needed for students!

We spoke with Jane Olsson to learn more about the planting process and student involvement at COD this year. Here's what she shared:

Q: What did the planting process look like this year?

This year, we decided to skip using the seeder vacuum. I found that preparing the seeds on the vacuum plate took about as much

time as hand-sowing them, so it made more sense to go the simpler route. Other than that, everything was pretty much the same as last year—we used the 128-cell trays you provided, moistened the media, placed one seed per cell, and then covered the trays with vermiculite.

Q: How were volunteers involved?

With more participants involved through the schools this year, we realized we needed some extra help. A few of the student volunteers were new to the process, so we walked them through seeding step by step. But most of them were already experienced thanks to their classes here, and they were able to jump right in and get started on their own.

Q: What kind of care do the plants need until they're transferred?

From now until they're transferred, it's all about keeping the seeds moist so they can germinate. We continue watering regularly, and since we fertilize the entire greenhouse once a week with 3-2-4 Nature's Source, these seedlings get fertilized too. We did the same thing last year, and I'm sure it helps the seedlings develop strong roots—perfect for when excited kids are ready to handle them!

Volunteers are helping deliver the supplies across DuPage County May 5th – 9th, so keep an eye on our social media and next month's publication for updates!



Laboratory Assistant Jane Olsson (left) and a student volunteer planting tomato seeds



Top: Bags of supplies packed and ready to be delivered to classrooms across DuPage County.

Above: Tomato seedlings sprouting up at the COD Greenhouse.



DuPage Farmer

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Joke of the Month

Why are trees so forgiving?

Because they like to turnover a new leaf!

Submitted by Ren MacDonald

Send your farm jokes to info@dcfb.org



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Illinois AGRICULTURE in the ClassroomSM

Kristina Baumbach
Education Coordinator
DuPage County Farm Bureau



Ag in the Classroom is a free program that visits DuPage schools to teach the importance of agriculture. The lessons can be adjusted for all age levels and meet learning standards. We would also be happy to be a part of community events that relate to our agricultural literacy program vision and goals. Virtual options are available.

For more information contact:
dupageaitc@dcfb.org or 630-668-8161.

March's Numbers:

4,566 students • 223 teachers
#1 Lesson Topic: Baseball
Total Students Reached to date: 31,199

Teacher Quote about an AITC Visit:

"Kenna is AMAZING! We are so thankful for her continued support of Ag in the Class within our grade level. Her passion and experience for agriculture is beyond what we could ask for. Kenna is captivating in her delivery and always excites our students with her real-world experiences. Kenna teaches us (teachers) all something new year after year! She is an OUTSTANDING volunteer!"

3rd Grade Teacher, Stone Elementary

AITC blew through March teaching some of our favorite spring topics, pollination and baseball! Many classes learned about the pollination process and the importance of insect pollinators. After the lesson, older students participated in the "Picky Pollinator" activity while younger students made our "Throw & Grow" seed balls. Students who participated in baseball lessons learned about the plants and animals used to make the items needed for their favorite game. They made our "3D Baseball" project to take home. Other exciting events this month included visiting the Meadow Glens STEM Night and Bower Elementary STEM Night. Coming up, we're looking forward to preparing for the Grow Your Own Food program! Remember if you would like to volunteer for Grow Your Own Food, please contact Kara at knorton@dcfb.org.



Libraries get Earth Day Ag Bags

At AITC we love to support our local libraries and their educational programs! This spring we offered a new Earth Day Ag Bag for librarians to hand out at their locations. The bags featured our Sustainability Ag Mag and Earth Day bracelet project. We also offered our previous spring topics including pollination and soil. These bags are a hit every year! Ten libraries received 547 Ag Bags in March! Be sure to check out your local library and ask if they received our Ag Bags. Thank you to our amazing volunteer Robin Halicki for helping deliver the bags!



Elementary STEM Nights

In March AITC staff hosted booths at Bower Elementary and Meadow Glens Elementary during their annual STEM nights! During the visit to Bower, students learned about pork production and animal care. Afterward they made paper bag pigs to take home along with our pork ag mags. At Meadow Glens students learned about the soil particles, sand, silt, and clay during a hands-on demonstration. STEM nights are always a great way to visit with local families and spread agriculture awareness!



Below, left to right: Students at CE Miller Elementary loved learning about the connection between baseball and agriculture with Marilyn.

The 3rd graders at Bower had a blast learning about baseball and ag with Kenna.

The 3rd graders at Graham Elementary loved learning about pizza ingredients with Mary.



Farmers Bond with their Lunch Box

Always take your lunch box along.

Accept the statement as words of wisdom or a standing joke among the farm crew. On a good planting or harvest day, farmers intend to camp out in a single piece of equipment – just a guy or gal and their lunch box in the tractor, combine, semi or sprayer. But the day quickly goes awry when you dismount the tractor to help with a breakdown, jump in the service truck to grab supplies at the home farm or drive another truck to fetch a part in town. Soon, you're thirsty, hungry and two vehicles removed from your afternoon snack and Cherry Coke Zero.

The lunch box provides comfort and routine. Its caloric content caters to our personal cravings and delivers physical fuel for the body, emotional therapy for the mind and small moments of peace in a 14-hour workday. My teenage son says, "It's a good day when a lunch box is involved." The insulated cooler signals cab time and farming the land with his favorite snacks and a sweet tea.

I look forward to the lunch box rituals in the field, starting with yogurt and berries for breakfast. Lunch comes out about 11 a.m. or when field conditions allow, providing another hashmark in the timeline of a long day. Strangely, I like traditional

hot foods served cold, including homemade meatloaf or 4-H barbecue with no bun – all at the temperature of a lunchbox lined with ice packs.

While previously limited to handheld foods, today's auto-guidance permits spoons and forks. I enjoy the calm pace of soybean fields with long, back-and-forth passes. Satellites steer the tractor hands-free so I can fork my food while watching the machine's performance. In contrast, odd-shaped fields with lots of turning, stopping and starting keep my lunchbox lid largely closed.

Homemade trail mix ranks an afternoon highlight. Popcorn keeps me alert a kernel at a time. Miniature chocolate bars satisfy sweet cravings but not quite like my grandpa's treats did. All the grandkids wanted to ride with him and raid his lunch box for a piece of strawberry licorice.

Grandpa called his lunch box a dinner pail, a nod to dinner as the noon meal in farm country. For most of the world, dinner means supper time, and that's when Mom is the hero. She delivers a hot meal, homemade dessert and drinks to the field as the contents of the lunch box dwindle.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West Central Illinois, where they raise corn, soybeans, hay, beef cattle, backyard chickens and farmkids.



Very Pinteresting

A column dedicated to finding you healthy recipes using the freshest ingredients

Creamy Cilantro Lima Pasta Salad with Avocado and Sweet Corn

Cocinarepublic.com

Great for meal prepping, potlucks, or a dinner side!

Servings: 4, Prep: 15 Minutes, Cook: 10, Chill: 15,

INGREDIENTS

For the Salad:

8 oz fusilli pasta (use whatever you prefer)
1 cup cherry tomatoes rinsed and halved
½ small red onion minced
Juice of 1 lime for soaking the onion
1 cup frozen sweet corn

For the Creamy Avocado Cilantro Lime Dressing:

1 large avocado diced
½ cup fresh cilantro chopped
4 tbsp fresh lime juice
¾ cup Greek yogurt
½ cup sour cream
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp black pepper



INSTRUCTIONS

Cook and Cool the Pasta – Bring a pot of salted water to a boil. Cook fusilli pasta according to the package. Drain using a colander or pasta drainer, then immediately add ice cubes to the pasta to stop it from cooking further. Once the pasta is cool, drain off any extra water and ice.

Cook and Cool the Corn – Bring a pot of water to a boil. Add frozen sweet corn and cook for 6-8 minutes. Drain and let it cool.

Soften the Onion in Lime Juice – Mince the red onion and place it in a small bowl with lime juice. Let it sit for a few minutes to mellow out the sharpness.

Prep the Tomatoes – Rinse the cherry tomatoes under cold water, pat them dry, and cut them in half.

Make the Dressing – Dice the avocado and place it in a mixing bowl. Pour the lime juice over it and toss to coat. Stir in chopped cilantro, Greek yogurt, sour cream, salt, and black pepper until well combined.

Mix It All Together – In a large bowl, combine cooled pasta, cherry tomatoes, cooked corn, and softened red onion with lime juice. Pour the dressing over the top and mix until well coated.

Serve or Chill – Serve immediately or refrigerate for 15 minutes to let the flavors blend.

TIPS: Make it a full meal – Add some grilled chicken or shrimp on top for extra protein! Let the pasta cool – Mixing everything while hot may thin out the sauce. Chill before serving – Letting the dish sit in the fridge for at least 15 minutes allows the flavors to marinate with the pasta.



Protecting Pollinators from Pesticides

By John Schepis,
Illinois Extension

As spring continues to warm up and weeds and insects increase in abundance, demand for management of these populations will continue to grow. Along with pest insects and flowering weeds, bees, wasps, butterflies, and flies will also begin to emerge as essential pollinators in many systems. While managing these other weed and insect pest populations, applicators must protect pollinators during and after pesticide applications throughout the spring and summer. Below are a few ways that applicators can

limit the number of residues that will come in contact with pollinators.

Where you spray matters

The simplest way to protect pollinators from pesticides is to avoid spraying where pollinators hang out, namely flowers. Pollinators will spend most of their time foraging by traveling from flower to flower. Some solitary bees, such as squash bees, will spend additional time in flowers as they enjoy napping and sleeping overnight in larger blossoms. When not foraging for food, pollinators like bees and wasps often build or reside in a nest, establish territory, etc.,

while butterflies and moths often sun themselves on flat surfaces or rest in trees. Therefore, by avoiding spraying flowers or flowering plants, pollinators will encounter significantly fewer pesticide residues, leading to the preservation of pollinators.



Black swallowtail on common milkweed

Read the label to ensure that other practices are necessary to protect pollinators. While avoiding spraying flowering plants is an excellent rule of thumb, every pesticide is different, and some pose extra restrictions on where they can be applied. The label may state further environmental considerations in the "Precautionary Statements" section under "Environmental Hazards" and/or the "Directions for Use" section under "Endangered Species Protection requirements." Review both sections before making an application.

Conditions to limit pollinator exposure

Timing and temperature can impact what insects are present during an application. Bees and wasps rely on sight to locate flowers and will not forage before dawn or after dark. Therefore, making applications earlier in the day or later in the afternoon will help avoid some of these pollinators. Most pollinators are also incapable of moving their flight muscles fast enough to fly when temperatures are below 55°F, so ap-

plications performed below this temperature will limit exposure to pollinators. Note that the internal temperature of a honeybee hive is often different than outside temperatures, meaning that there may still be low levels of activity directly outside a

hive when temperatures are below 55°F.

Problematic formulations and chemistries

Microencapsulated pesticide formulations offer increased safety for applicators but can cause issues for some pollinators. In this formulation, small amounts of concentrated pesticides are encapsulated in plastic or starch, which are then suspended in a carrier. This type of formulation offers a slow release of the pesticide as these capsules break down to increase the residual effects and prevent applications from being directly contaminated with the pesticide if exposure to the formulation occurs. Unfortunately, these microcapsules are similar in size to pollen. If they were to come in contact with a pollinator, they could accidentally get picked up in the pollen sacks or hairs of bees and other pollinators. If a microencapsulated pesticide gets picked up in this nature, the pollinator would be exposed to a higher concentration of that pesticide when compared to other formulations. This issue is further problematic when exposure occurs to social insects such as honeybees, which can pick up that microencapsulation and carry it back to the hive, where the entire hive could come into contact with a concentrated pesticide. When using microencapsulated formulations, applicators must be aware of locations where pollinators

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Protecting Pollinators

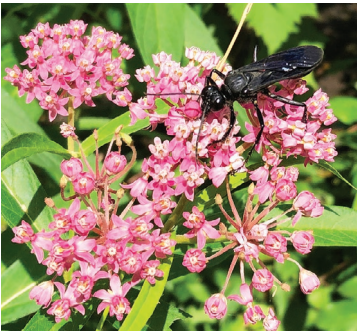
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might frequent.

A class of insecticides known as neonicotinoids also offer applicators increased safety while creating particular threats to pollinators. Neonicotinoids are designed to mimic the natural insecticidal effects of nicotine with high specificity while significantly decreasing human toxicity compared to plant-produced

nicotine; however, the interaction between pesticides in plants creates problems for pollinators. Neonicotinoids are systemic, meaning that when they come in contact with the plant, they are absorbed and carried throughout the plant, allowing neonicotinoids to protect every part of the plant. The downside is that the insecticide will also be expressed in the pollen and nectar, negatively impacting pol-

linators. Bees are particularly affected by neonicotinoids, with sublethal levels of the pesticide affecting behaviors such as foraging and communication. Limiting the use of neonicotinoids to plants that don't attract pollinators, waiting till after bloom to apply to plants, or giving flowering plants and gardens a buffer zone can positively impact pollinators.



Great black wasp on swamp milkweed



Blossom	Sprout	Butterfly	Blooming
Robin	Gardening	Geese	Daffodil
Tulip	Sunshine	Clouds	Pollen

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Farmer's Almanac – May

Sky Watch:

From the 1st to the 6th, Mars approaches and passes the gorgeous but faint star cluster M44, which is known as "The Beehive". Use binoculars for a celestial thrill. On the 3rd, the Moon closely meets Mars in the dim constellation of Cancer the Crab. Remember that actual constellations do not match up with tropical zodiacal signs, which is why the descriptions of the astronomical and astrological locations of the planets may differ. Throughout the month, brilliant Jupiter sinks lower into the western dusk twilight. On the 15th at 5:45 A.M., Saturn returns as a morning star to hover at the right of Venus, low in the east. Stunning Venus appears noticeably higher each morning. Back in the west at nightfall, Mars in Leo, fading to magnitude 1.3, stands just above the crescent Moon on the 31st.

MAY 2025:

Temp. 60° (1° above avg.); precip. 5" (2" above avg. east, avg. west). 1 – 7 Sunny, then showers; mild east, cool west. 8 – 12 Scattered t-storms, cool. 13 – 20 Sunny, warm. 21 – 31 T-storms, locally heavy rain: warm, then cool.



Hooray for DCFB DISCOUNTS

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www.pinotpalette.com/stcharles

Raging Waves

DCFB members can purchase discounted tickets to Raging Waves, Illinois Largest Waterpark, located in Yorkville, IL. Save money on Any Day Admission tickets. Tickets are only available for purchase online.

Please use promo code DCFB25 at checkout.

Limited Time Only!

Local Business Discounts

A-Archer Sewer & Plumbing

\$50.00 off any service call

504 W. Edgewood Rd. Lombard, 60148

630-932-9800 – www.a-archer.net

Downers Grove Training & Grooming

\$100.00 off all training schools

and \$10.00 off any grooming

2151 63rd St., Downers Grove, IL 60516

630-724-7039

Ferrari Plumbing

\$55.00 off any plumbing service

1727 Stoddard Ave.

Wheaton, IL 60187

630-709-7277

www.ferrariplumbing.net

Fresh and Silk Flowers

(Carol Stream Location)

15% off all goods and extras

578 W Army Trail Rd • Carol Stream, 60088

630.690.7822

www.freshandsilkflowers.com

Gravity Express

10% off services

546 N. Stewart Ave., Lombard

224-200-4543

Hills Roofing Inc.

10% off any job up to \$200

6817 Hobson Valley Dr. Ste.112

Woodridge, IL 60517

630-963-1555

hillsroofinginc.com

HR Skylights

6817 Hobson Valley Dr. Ste.112

Woodridge, IL 60517

630-592-2418

hrrskylights.com

Light of the Soil

50% off retail price on all worm castings and compost teas purchased through website, shows, or calling.

2479 Baier Rd, North Aurora, IL 60542

630-439-7966

Royal Polish Nail Salon

10% off your scheduled visit

116 Galena St. West Chicago, IL 60185

630-876-1202

*Discounts are subject to change without notice. Restrictions may apply.
Must show membership card.*



May Meat Order

Pick up is located inside the DCFB office.
More product is available on our website store : [DCFB.org](https://www.dcfb.org)



PRODUCT	PRICE	QTY	COST
Hamburger Patties, 5lb	\$35.00		
Bourbon Marinated Steak, 8pc	\$54.00		
Ground Round, 10lb	\$54.00		
Bratwurst Burgers, 5lb	\$35.00		
Top Sirloin Butt Steak, 8pc	\$54.00		
Hot Dogs, 5lb	\$44.00		
Honey BBQ Chicken Breast, 10pc 5 lb	\$37.00		
Plain Chicken Breast, 10pc 5 lb	\$34.00		
Tequila Lime Chicken Breast, 10pc 5 lb	\$37.00		
Bratwurst Links, 20 pc <small>MONTHLY SPECIAL</small>	\$30.00		
Chicken Bacon Ranch Burgers, 5lb	\$35.00		
BBQ Boneless Pork Chops, 10pc	\$34.00		
Plain Boneless Pork Chops, 10pc	\$34.00		
Stuffed Pork Chops, 4pc	\$34.00		
Bone In Pork Chops, 10pc	\$34.00		
Boneless Beef Short Ribs, 5 lb	\$41.00		
Pork Back Ribs, 5 lb	\$32.00		
Italian Sausage Links, 20 pc <small>MONTHLY SPECIAL</small>	\$30.00		

Grand Total \$ _____

Name: _____ FB#: _____

Contact Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Send payment payable to : DuPage County Farm Bureau 245 S. Gary Ave., Carol Stream, IL 60188

Order Deadline: May 13th

Dates/prices subject to change

Pick up: May 22nd at the DCFB office from 8:30am-4pm