



Kane County

KC Agriculture Committee

Meeting Minutes

Government Center
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A
Geneva, IL 60134

JUBY, Roth, Allan, Lenert, Penesis, Sanchez, Williams and ex-officio Pierog (County Chair)

Thursday, December 18, 2025

10:30 AM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

Chairman Juby called today's meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT	Board Member Leslie Juby Board Member Bill Roth Board Member Deborah Allan Board Member Bill Lenert Board Member Ted Penesis
ABSENT	Board Member Jarett Sanchez Board Member Rick Williams Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog

Also present: Co. Bd. members Linder*; KCFB Dir. Collins; KDSWCD Resource Conservationist Purdom; Northern Illinois Food Bank Manager Desio; Dev. Planners Tansley and Toth and staff Farmland Preservation Admin. Castro; Spec. ASA & Local Historian Shepro; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public including former County Board Member, Mike Kenyon.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

There were no remote attendance requests for today's meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes: November 20, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Bill Roth

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Partners

A. Kane County Farm Bureau Updates (Steve Arnold, Manager)

Kane County Farm Bureau (KCFB) Dir., Bill Collins, stated that the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual meeting was held on December 6 at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago. He summarized the resolutions that were discussed at the meeting, including the new policy language urging opposition to data centers and crypto-currency operations that could harm grid reliability or local qualifiers, support for expanding farm-to-consumer and wholesale markets and specialty crop insurance tools, and backing for regenerative agriculture practices and incentives. Illinois Farm Bureau delegates elected LaSalle County livestock farmer, Philip Nelson, as the organization's 17th President, receiving 55.6 percent of the vote. Collins announced that Kane County Farm Bureau Board Member, Joe White, was elected as a new member of the Illinois Farm Bureau Board, and will be replacing Mark Tuttle of DeKalb County as the new Director of District one. He noted that Illinois young farmers and leaders were recognized for their achievements and programs. Joseph White of Batavia was elected to the State Young Farmers Committee. Collins highlighted that the second annual Truckload of Toys for the Community Santa Project was completed on Saturday, December 13. The event featured a pork chop sandwiches, kabobs, and chili provided at the KCFB office, and tickets were available to enter into the Vintage Truck Raffle for a 1984 Chevy Silverado. A total of \$50K is available for the 2026-2027 Farm Bureau agricultural scholarships. The application process is now open to anyone interested. The Everything Local conference will be held from January 28-30 at the Springfield Convention Center. This three-day event features networking, presentations, locally sourced food, and a deep-dive on a wide variety of production, operational and marketing topics. Collins addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

B. Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District Updates (Tom Purdom, Resource Conservationist)

Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District (KDSWCD) Resource Conservationist, Tom Purdom, reminded the committee that applications for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) program, the Environmental Quality Incentives program (EQIP), and the Conservation Stewardship program (CSP) will be open till January 15, 2026. He stated that pre-enrollment for the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) Fall Covers for Spring Savings program (FCSS) is open till January 15, 2026. The program offers a five dollar per acre crop insurance discount on 2026 premiums for cover crops planted in Fall of 2025. He noted that enrollment for the program has a first-come, first-serve basis, and requires a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) certification and insurance information for soil health benefits. Purdom noted that a three-year commitment cover-crop program that targets fields without prior cover-crop history will be implemented early next year. More updates on this program will be provided at the next meeting. There are two rebates issued to date for the Farm Weatherization Rebate. He announced that on January 22 at 5:00 p.m. there will be a celebration of Kane County farms held at Emerald Acres in Maple Park. The event will include a free BBQ dinner and keynote speaker, Jim Stute, who will be discussing conservation practices and how to have a positive return on investment (ROI). Lastly, Purdom stated that election day for the 2026 Board of Directors will be on Tuesday, February 10. He noted that candidates must submit petitions by January 21. Petitions are available at KDSWCD office Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The two polling locations are KDSWCD office in St. Charles, and DuPage County Farm Bureau in Carol Stream. Voters must be of legal age and own land within KDSWCD boundaries. Purdom addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

C. Northern Illinois Food Bank Updates

Northern Illinois Food Bank Senior Manager of Public Policy and Benefits, Rob Desio, stated that the food bank served about 608K neighbors last month, and a total of 84K in Kane County, making it a 6.5 percent increase locally. (Committee Member Allan arrived at 10:57 a.m.) A total of 6,500 holiday meal boxes were distributed in the county. Desio noted that reinstated Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirements could put about 10K local recipients at risk of losing benefits. The Illinois Department of Human Resources (IDHS) has accepted more than 100K waivers submitted for exempt work requirements.

7. Presentations/Announcements

A. Farmland Protection Program Report

Farmland Preservation Admin., Sarahy Castro, stated that there are currently 6K acres protected, 1K acres in progress, and 1K acres on the waiting list. Castro provided data on the outreach impacts for years 2024 and 2025. She highlighted the challenges in the Farmland Protection Program. One challenge is that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides fifty percent funding of the appraised value, and the county's policy is a minimum of \$5K per acre. There is also limited technical staff at both the County and USDA, along with government cutbacks and shutdowns. There is a limited number of field experts who fully understand USDA requirements, and a overall shortage of qualified specialists. Lastly, Castro mentioned that there may be a new farm bill in 2026. Updated soil health results will be presented as well.

B. Agriculture Committee 2026 Goals Discussion (Updates)

Dev. Planner, Matt Tansley, reviewed the updated Committee 2026 Goals. He addressed language changes within the goals. The Committee provided a unanimous consensus to approve the committee goals. Chairman Juby stated that the Committee 2026 Goals will go into effect and be included on next month's agenda. Further discussion ensued.

8. New Business

A. Amending Section 2-48 of the Kane County Code (Standing Committees) to Revise Language Related to the Agriculture Committee

There were two versions of ordinance language presented to the Committee. The Committee unanimously agreed to select version two. There was an amendment to the language within version 2. Motion to amend was moved by Lenert, seconded by Roth. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Amendment passed. A motion to vote on the amended ordinance was moved by Lenert, seconded by Roth. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Bill Lenert
SECONDER:	Bill Roth
AYE:	Leslie Juby, Bill Roth, Deborah Allan, Bill Lenert, and Ted Penesis
ABSENT:	Jarett Sanchez, Rick Williams, and Corinne M. Pierog

9. Reports Placed On File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Ted Penesis

10. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

11. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Bill Lenert

This meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary