



Kane County

KC Agriculture Committee

Agenda

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

2025 Committee Goals

- Goals from the July Agriculture Committee meeting
- 1. Revise County Code Definition of the Agriculture Committee
- 2. Awareness & Support of Agriculture - Raise public awareness and support for agriculture in Kane County as an industry sector and community resource
- 3. Farmland Protection - Work in concert with the Farmland Protection Commission and County Board to oversee the successful implementation of Kane County's Farmland Protection Ordinance and related conservation efforts, and pursue funding
- 4. Continue Growing for Kane Program - Direct the implementation of programs and policies that expand the production of locally grown foods and improve community access to fresh and healthy food choices, and pursue funding
- Continue partnerships with the Kane County Farm Bureau and the Northern Illinois Food Bank
- Implement current grant funded projects
- Continue to apply for additional outside grants
- Implement economic development projects for Agriculture
- ARPA Small grants for farmers
- Other projects identified by the Economic Development Strategic Plan for Kane County

- 1. Call To Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Remote Attendance Requests**
- 4. Approval of Minutes: November 20, 2025**
- 5. Public Comment**
- 6. Partners**
 - A. Kane County Farm Bureau Updates (Steve Arnold, Manager)**
 - B. Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District Updates (Kat Gerdts, Administrative Coordinator)**
 - C. Northern Illinois Food Bank Updates**
- 7. Presentations/Announcements**

- A. Farmland Protection Program Report**
- B. Agriculture Committee 2026 Goals Discussion (Updates)**

8. New Business

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

9. Reports Placed On File

10. Executive Session (if needed)

11. Adjournment

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COUNTY OF KANE) SS.

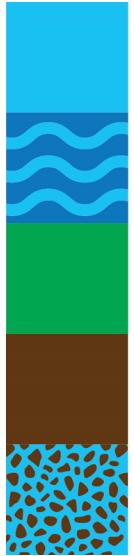
PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION NO. TMP-25-1546

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU UPDATES (STEVE ARNOLD, MANAGER)

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION NO. TMP-25-1548

KANE-DUPAGE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT UPDATES (KAT GERDTS, ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR)



Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District

Kane County Ag Update December 2025





FALL COVERS FOR SPRING SAVINGS

STEPS TO TAKE

- 1** Certify your cover crop acres on the FSA-578
- 2** Pre-Enroll your acres starting December 3 at 8 am
- 3** Submit your application starting December 15 at 8 am



Cover Crop Premium Discount Program

Enrollment closes January 15, 11:59pm
This year's program features a newly updated application.
IDOA strongly recommends reviewing the new format
and requirements during the pre-enrollment period.

Applications are selected on a first-come, first-served
basis, so the pre-enrollment period will be helpful for
those needing more time to fill out the application.
NOTE: this program fills quickly.

Visit IDOA website for more information that includes a
"How To" Guide for submitting an application.

<https://bit.ly/47sWAM4>



I-Cover RCPP *coming soon*

The Bureau of Land & Water (BLWR) plans to host an online state-wide sign up for cover crop implementation after the Fall Covers for Spring Savings sign-up period concludes.

- 3-year commitment will be required for seeding cover crops in 2026, 2027 and 2028
- Only fields never planted with a cover crop (unless a new technique or method for earlier establishment is utilized) will be eligible
- The selection and approval process will be completed by IDOA
- SWCDs will work with selected applicants to confirm program eligibility, plan, implement, verify and provide financial payments for completed cover crop practices
- Additional guidance and details coming soon





KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTABLISHED JANUARY 16, 1836

Farm Weatherization Rebate

Rebates Issued to Date

\$500 = 0

\$800 = 2





Thursday, January 22,
5pm @ Emerald Acres

Keynote Speaker:
Jim Stute
farmer & independent research agronomist

“Rural Mythbusters:
conservation practices *can*
have a positive ROI

BBQ dinner included
Complimentary~ Registration Required



16 registered to date

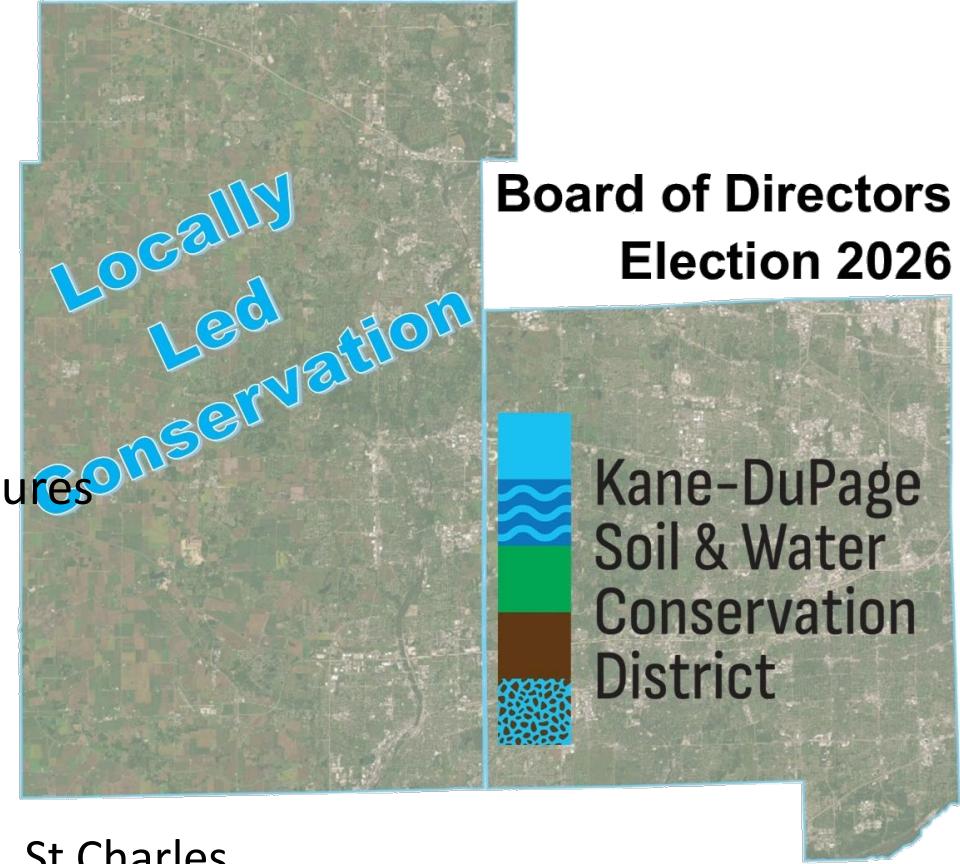
Candidates must submit petitions
by January 21

- 3 seats are up for election
- Petitions available at KDSWCD office
Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm
- Proof of residency/land ownership and 25 supporting signatures required



Election Day = Tuesday, February 10

- Polling places:
 - KDSWCD office 2315 Dean Street, Suite 100, St Charles
 - DuPage County Farm Bureau, 245 S. Gary Avenue, Carol Stream
 - 7am – 5:30pm
- Voters must be of legal age & own/occupy land within KDSWCD boundaries



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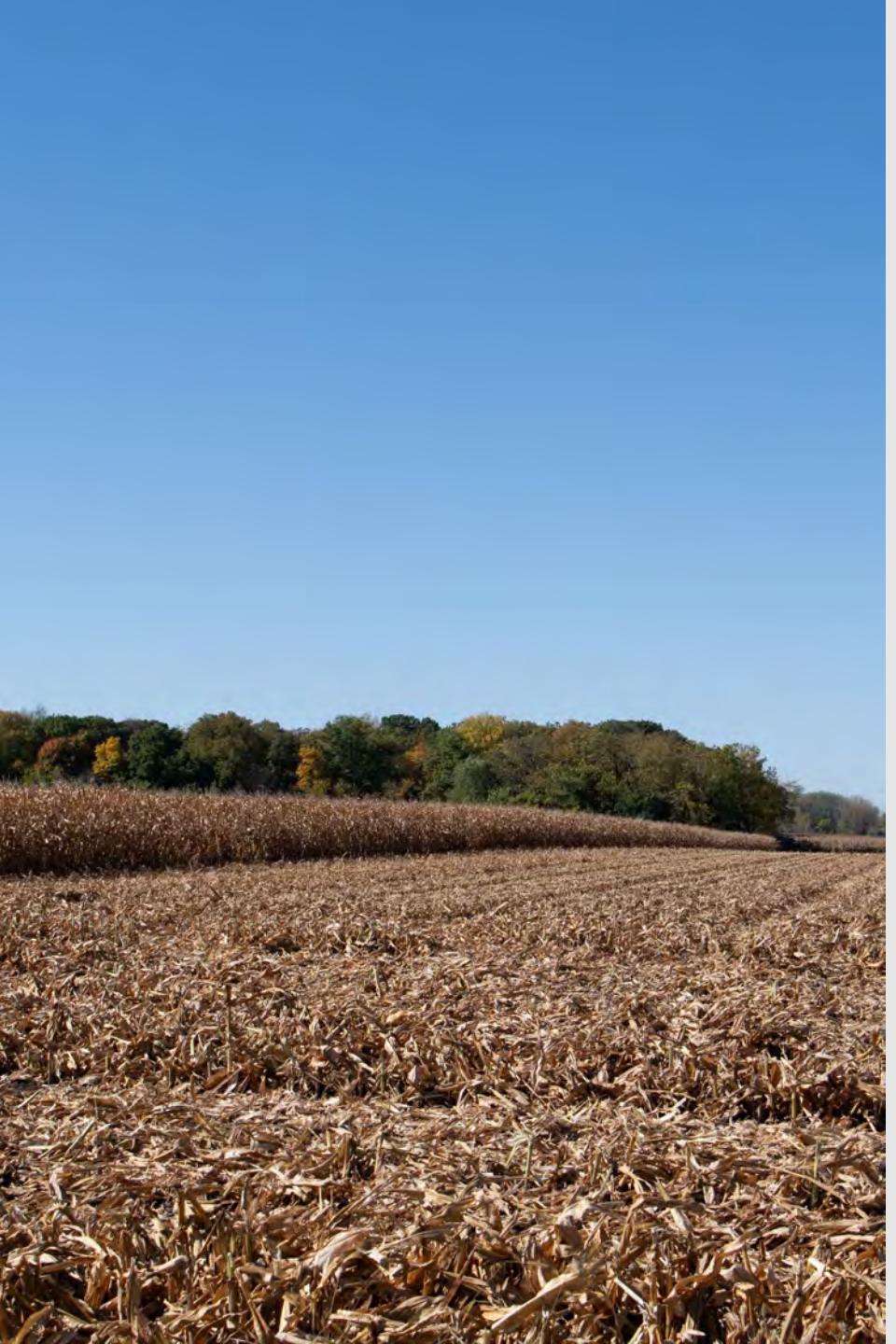
PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION NO. TMP-25-1547

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK UPDATES

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION NO. TMP-25-1549

FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM REPORT



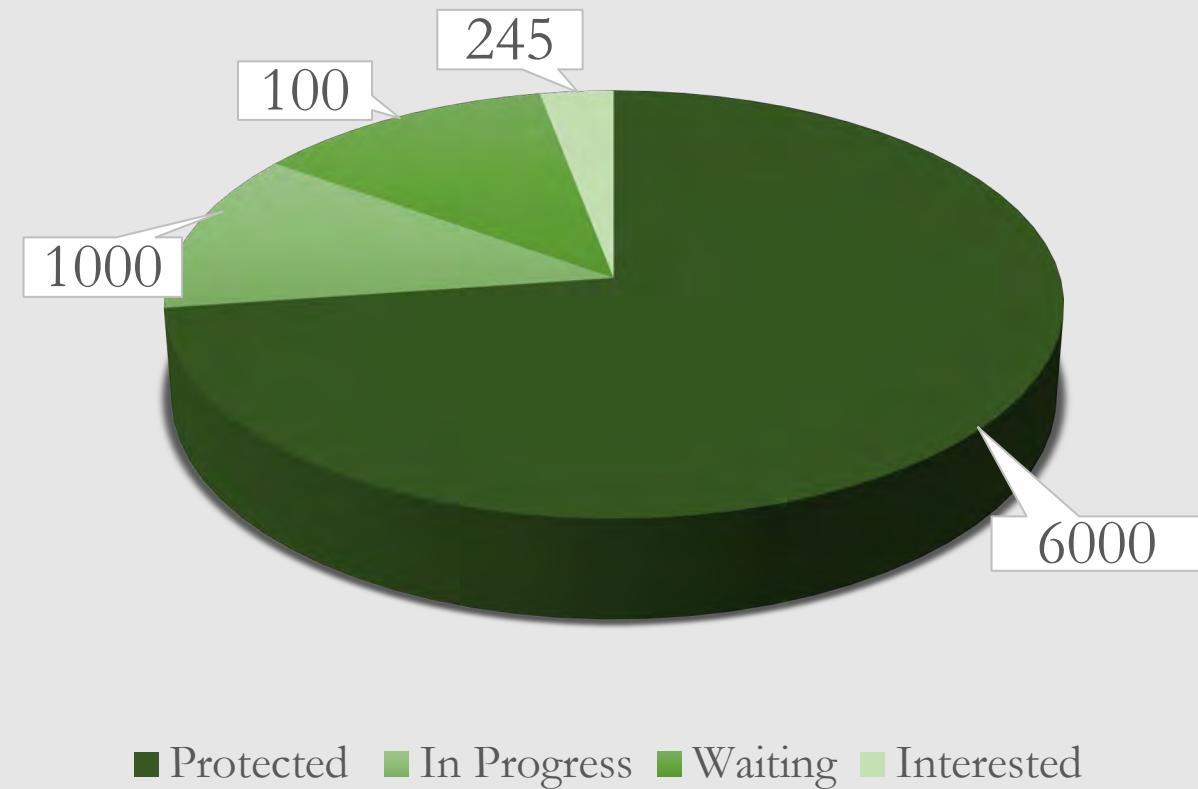
Kane County Agriculture Committee

12/18/2025





Acres Per Category



Outreach Impacts



Outreach Impacts	2024	2025
Individuals touched by outreach activities	100	4
New farm visits	21	2
Acres engaged by outreach activities	1,000	260
Historically underserved farmers reached by outreach activities	4	0

Challenges in the Farmland Protection Program

01

Funding

USDA provides 50% funding of the appraised value. The County's policy is a minimum of \$5,000 per acre.

02

Staffing

Limited technical staff at both the County and USDA, along with government cutbacks and shutdowns.

03

Expertise

Limited number of field experts who fully understand USDA requirements, as well as an overall shortage of qualified specialists.



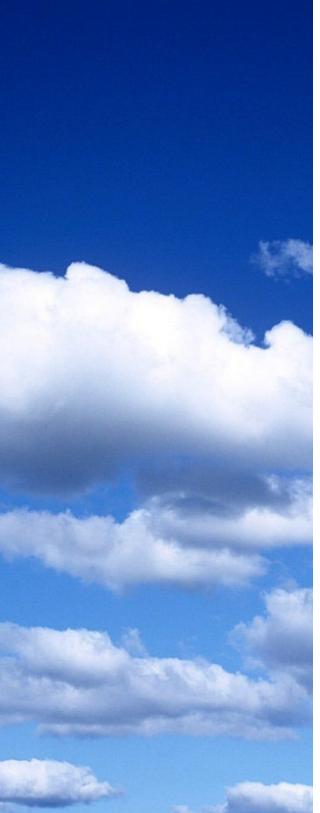
Coming in 2026

- New Farm Bill?
- Soil Health Assessment Results

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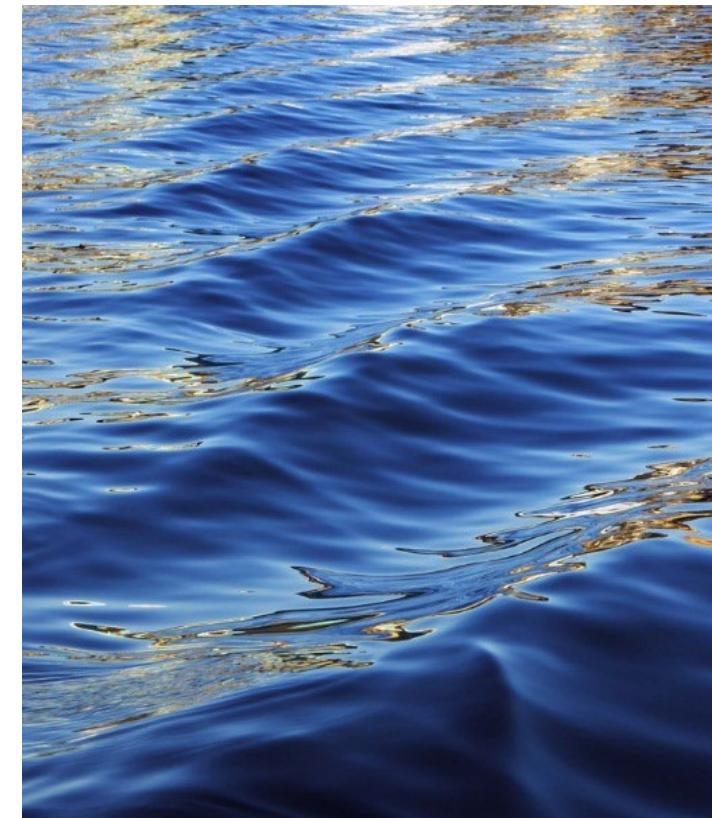
PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION NO. TMP-25-1550

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE 2026 GOALS DISCUSSION (UPDATES)



Agriculture Committee Goals for 2026 (REVISED)

Kane County Agriculture Committee
December 18, 2025



Overview

Planning Division Staff met with Committee leadership to discuss potential goals for the Kane County Agriculture Committee to pursue for 2026.

The goals are intended to guide the Committee's actions throughout the year, responsive to community needs and consistent with County policies and priorities on agriculture and food access.

The following 5 goals were drafted for further review and discussion by the Committee.



1. Farmland Protection



Oversee the implementation of Kane County's Farmland Protection Program, **working in concert with the Farmland Protection Commission, with a focus on** increasing total acreage preserved for farming, improving access to farmland for future generations, and exploring new conservation strategies.

2. Growing for Kane



Direct activities aligned with the Growing for Kane Program that support Kane County's food growers with funding, technical expertise, and policy improvements to make healthy, locally grown foods more accessible.

3. Funding Advocacy



Advocate for funding to advance initiatives that support ~~thriving~~ farm businesses and **farm practices that** strengthen Kane County's agricultural sector.

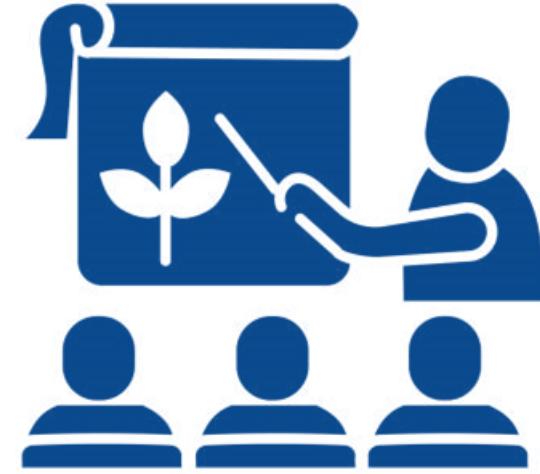
4. Staff Oversight



Provide oversight of County staff administering projects and programs that address the needs of farmland preservationists, agricultural businesses, food assistance organizations, and residents with limited access to fresh grown foods.

5. Raising Awareness of Agriculture

Raise community awareness of the value of agriculture in Kane County for providing economic benefits, opportunities for land stewardship, a sustainable source of healthy foods, and maintaining a historic rural heritage.



STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF KANE) SS.

ORDINANCE NO. TMP-25-1430

AMENDING SECTION 2-48 OF THE KANE COUNTY CODE (STANDING COMMITTEES) TO REVISE LANGUAGE RELATED TO THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, section 2-48 of the Kane County Code governs the standing committees of the Kane County Board; and

WHEREAS, the Kane County Board desires to amend sections 2-48(A)(13) of the Kane County Code to revise language related to the Agriculture Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Agriculture Committee of the Kane County Board has reviewed and recommended changes to section 2-48 of the Kane County Code, which includes affirming the Committee's role in overseeing policies and initiatives that protect farmland and support local food access; and

WHEREAS, section 2-52 of the Kane County Code provides that no amendment shall be made to Division 2, Article II, Chapter 2, of the Kane County Code without the consent of the majority of the total membership of the County Board, nor on the day of introduction of the same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Kane County Board that Kane County Code, Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II (County Board), Division 2 (Rules of Order), Section 2-48 (Standing Committees) is hereby amended to as reflected in Exhibit A.

Passed by the Kane County Board on February 10, 2026.

John A. Cunningham, MBA, JD, JD
Clerk, County Board
Kane County, Illinois

Corinne M. Pierog MA, MBA
Chairman, County Board
Kane County, Illinois

Vote:



RESOLUTION / ORDINANCE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ADDENDUM

Title

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

Committee Flow:

Agriculture Committee, Executive Committee, County Board

Contact:

Matt Tansley, 630-232-3493

Budget Information:

Was this item budgeted? N/A	Appropriation Amount: \$N/A
If not budgeted, explain funding source: N/A	
Was this item passed through the appropriate committee? Yes	

Summary:

This ordinance amends Chapter 2 of the Kane County Code to revise the language describing the role of the Agriculture Committee.

EXHIBIT A

Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II (County Board), Division 2 (Rules of Order), Section 2-48 (Standing Committees) is hereby amended as follows (underline indicates insertion; strike-through indicates deletion):

A. Generally: The standing committees of the County Board, each to consist of seven (7) members unless otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

* * *

[Insert Amendment]

AMENDING SECTION 2-48 OF THE KANE COUNTY CODE (STANDING COMMITTEES) TO REVISE LANGUAGE RELATED TO THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

At the November meeting, the committee discussed two versions of an amendment to the Kane County Code definition of the Agriculture Committee.

The two versions are presented on the following slides for consideration to revise the ordinance text presented at the November meeting.

Version 1

13. Agriculture: This committee shall provide oversight of the County's efforts to protect farmland and support local food access, and have jurisdiction to offer assistance and technical expertise to other organizations ~~county agencies, municipalities, departments and offices~~ to address concerns unique to agriculture. Recognizing that agriculture is ~~the second~~ a leading industry in Kane County and is a land use in most townships, this committee will meet periodically with organizations and groups representing farming interests to propose policies and programs ~~guidelines~~ to the County Board as needed.

Version 2

13. Agriculture: This committee shall provide oversight of the County's efforts to protect farmland and support local food access, and have jurisdiction to offer assistance and technical expertise to other organizations ~~county agencies, municipalities, departments and offices~~ to address concerns unique to agriculture. Recognizing that agriculture is ~~the second~~ a leading industry in Kane County and is the largest land use, this committee will meet periodically with organizations and groups representing farming interests to propose policies and programs ~~guidelines~~ to the County Board as needed.