



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, April 17, 2025

10:30 AM

County Board Room

2025 Committee Goals

Goals from the July Agriculture Committee meeting

- Revise County Code Definition of the Agriculture Committee
 - Awareness & Support of Agriculture - Raise public awareness and support for agriculture in Kane County as an industry sector and community resource
 - 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
 - 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 Kane County Farm Bureau and 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
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1. **Call To Order**
 2. **Roll Call**
 3. **Remote Attendance Requests**
 4. **Approval of Minutes: March 20, 2025**
 5. **Public Comment**
 6. **Partners**
 - A. Kane County Farm Bureau Updates (Steve Arnold, Manager)
 - B. Meet Your Farmer Series (Alexis Barnes, Educator, University of Illinois Extension)
 7. **Presentations/Announcements**
 - A. Farmer Weatherization Rebate Program (Austin Powell, Sustainability Coordinator)
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B. IL-EATS Program and Workshop Recap (Matt Tansley, Planner)

8. New Business

A. 2025 Proclamation Recognizing Steve Pitstick as a Master Farmer Award Recipient

9. Reports Placed On File

10. Executive Session (if needed)

11. Adjournment

STATE OF ILLINOIS)

SS.

COUNTY OF KANE)

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION NO. TMP-25-501

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU UPDATES (STEVE ARNOLD, MANAGER)

STATE OF ILLINOIS)

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PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION NO. TMP-25-509

MEET YOUR FARMER SERIES (ALEXIS BARNES, EDUCATOR,

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION)

STATE OF ILLINOIS)

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COUNTY OF KANE)

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION NO. TMP-25-502

**FARMER WEATHERIZATION REBATE PROGRAM (AUSTIN POWELL,
SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR)**

Farmer Weatherization Rebate Program

Summary

A rebate program offered to farmers who weatherize their home through air sealing and/or attic insulation.

Total Fund: \$20,000  Funded by the Electric Aggregation Program

Rebate Amount:

➤ \$200

1. Farmers living in unincorporated Kane.

➤ \$400

1. Farmers living in unincorporated Kane.
2. Does not use Nicor Gas for residential heating.

This program would benefit between 50 to 100 farmers.

Benefits of Air Sealing and Attic Insulation

- A 2023 study by the [American Council for and Energy-Efficient Economy](#) found that weatherization measures such as air sealing and attic insulation can **reduce** a home's **energy usage** by **12 to 18 percent**.
- The [US EPA](#) estimates that homeowners can save an average of **15 percent** on heating and cooling costs by air sealing their homes and adding insulation in attics, floors over crawl spaces and basements.

Cost Breakdown & Available Rebates

- The [Minnesota Center for Energy and Environment](#) estimates that air sealing and attic insulation costs between **\$2,000 to \$6,500**
- Estimates from Qualified Contractors in the Chicago Area (1,700 sq. ft home): ~ **\$3400 to \$5950**

Kane County

\$200 or \$400

Nicor Rebates

Air Sealing: \$250 per home

Attic Insulation: \$400 per home

Inflation Reduction Act

30% of qualified expenses or up to \$1200

Cost Breakdown: Kane County

Kane County Rebate without Nicor or IRA				
Service	Estimated Cost	Rebate Amount	Total Cost	% Change
Air Sealing & Attic Insulation	\$3,000	\$400	\$2,600	-13.33%
	\$4,500	\$400	\$4,100	-8.89%
	\$6,000	\$400	\$5,600	-6.67%

Cost Breakdown: Kane County & Nicor

Kane County Rebate with Nicor				
Service	Estimated Cost	Rebate Amount	Total Cost	% Change
Air Sealing & Attic Insulation	\$3,000	\$850	\$2,150	-28.33%
	\$4,500	\$850	\$3,650	-18.89%
	\$6,000	\$850	\$5,150	-14.17%

Cost Breakdown: Kane County & IRA

Kane County Rebate with IRA				
Service	Estimated Cost	Rebate Amount	Total Cost	% Change
Air Sealing & Attic Insulation	\$3,000	\$1,100	\$1,900	-36.67%
	\$4,500	\$1,400	\$3,100	-31.11%
	\$6,000	\$1,400	\$4,600	-23.33%

Cost Breakdown: Kane County + Nicor + IRA

Kane County Rebate with Nicor & IRA				
Service	Estimated Cost	Rebate Amount	Total Cost	% Change
Air Sealing & Attic Insulation	\$3,000	\$1,750	\$1,250	-58.33%
	\$4,500	\$2,050	\$2,450	-45.56%
	\$6,000	\$2,050	\$3,950	-34.17%

General Takeaways

- \$20,000 fund offering weatherization rebates to farmers living in unincorporated Kane County.
- Kane County rebate: \$400 reduction in total cost.
- Kane County + Nicor rebate: \$450 to \$850 reduction in total cost.
- Kane County + IRA rebates: \$1100 to \$1400 reduction in total cost.
- Kane County + Nicor + IRA rebates: \$1750 to \$2050 reduction in total cost.

Any Questions?

Austin Powell
Sustainability Coordinator
powelaustin@kanecountyil.gov

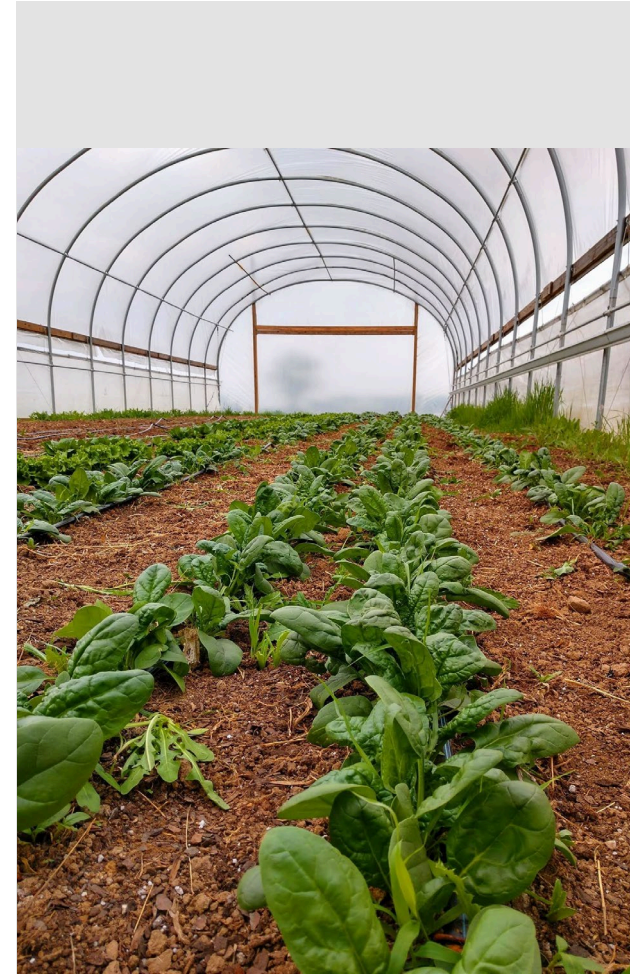
STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION NO. TMP-25-394

**IL-EATS PROGRAM AND WORKSHOP RECAP (MATT TANSLEY,
PLANNER)**

IL-EATS Program & Event Recap

Kane County Agriculture Committee
April 17, 2025
Matt Tansley, Planner



IL-EATS Program Overview

Illinois Equitable Access Towards Sustainable Systems (IL-EATS)

A statewide program run through the IL Dept of Agriculture and IL Dept. of Human Services to source fresh, local food from Illinois farmers for delivery to underserved communities across the state.

- Farmers are paid fair market value for their products including high-quality produce, proteins, dairy, and grains, provided at no cost through food pantries, mobile markets, and food box programs



2024 Program Reach

The IL-EATS program was funded through the USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) program.

- In Illinois the program prioritized purchases from veterans, women, disabled persons, and other underserved farmers.
 - Note: In Kane County **all farmers** are eligible as it is identified as a “high vulnerability” county.
- Illinois was originally approved to receive \$43 million as part of a multi-year agreement (later limited to \$28.8 million through FY25).



176

farmers have sold to IL-EATS



58%

of farmers meet the USDA definition for new farmer (<10 years)



883

community sites have distributed IL-EATS products



85

counties served

Kane County Impact

- **31 Sites** in Kane County distributed food purchased with IL-EATS Program funding
- **\$550,000 Distributed** – Value of food delivered to sites in Kane County (sourced from farms inside and outside of Kane County)
- **4 Kane County Farms** supplied product (distributed within and outside of Kane County)
 - Mighty Greens – Elburn
 - Klein's Quality Produce – Burlington
 - Baeder Acres – Hampshire
 - Sunny Oaks Farm – Burlington Twp.
- **\$364,105 Purchased** – Value of food purchased from Kane County farmers

Rooted for Good



A nonprofit based in DeKalb, IL providing food access and education services.

- A lead agency for the IL-EATS program
- Sourced local farm products for distribution through pantry network
- Active planning for the launch of a regional food hub – 8 acre site to include warehousing and production incubation





Rooted for Good

Market Opportunity for Kane County Producers

Rooted for Good is looking to buy food product from multiple local farmers.

Products eligible for purchase with IL-EATS funds include a range of fruits, vegetables, meats, and dairy products - including lightly processed products.

Rooted for Good is currently seeking:

- Beets
- Kohlrabi
- Apple sauce
- Honey
- Eggs
- Whole chicken cut in half

Salem Food Pantry

A food pantry located in DeKalb at Salem Lutheran Church that received produce purchased from farmers through the IL-EATS program

- Served 5,000 families in 2024
- Increased availability of fresh vegetables



Sunny Oaks Farm

A 10-acre farm just west of Burlington in Kane County that specializes in mushroom production.

- IL-EATS funding was used by Rooted for Good and Midwest Foods to purchase significant volumes of mushrooms from Sunny Oaks Farm at retail prices
- Wholesale distribution and home delivery
- [U of I Extension article on Sunny Oaks Farm](#)



Sunny Oaks Farm



Sunny Oaks Farm



Sunny Oaks Farm



Sunny Oaks Farm



Sunny Oaks Farm



Sunny Oaks Farm



IL-EATS Program Status

Update (as of March 25, 2025)

- According to IL Dept. of Agriculture and IL Dept. of Human Services, the program was reactivated after a pause and there will be adequate funding to continue IL-EATS through the existing agreement term in FY 2025.
- The program agreement for FY 2024 and 2025 authorized \$28.8 million for the purchase of local foods and administration by 15 agencies
- \$12 Million remaining in program funds to be spent by the end of June 2025



STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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PROCLAMATION NO. TMP-25-507

**2025 PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING STEVE PITSTICK AS A MASTER
FARMER AWARD RECIPIENT**



2025 PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING STEVE PITSTICK AS A MASTER FARMER AWARD RECIPIENT

WHEREAS, the Master Farmer Award was introduced 100 years ago in 1925 by *Prairie Farmer* magazine to honor Illinois farmers who exhibit excellence in agricultural production, strong commitment to family, and exceptional service to their community; and

WHEREAS, farmers, agribusiness leaders, and agricultural extensions specialists throughout the state nominate candidates for this award to recognize Illinois farmers beyond their farming skills; and

WHEREAS, Steve Pitstick of Maple Park was nominated by the Illinois Soybean Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pitstick currently raises corn and soybeans with his son on his Kane County farm, and serves as an advisor to agricultural technology companies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pitstick graduated from the Illinois Ag Leadership Program, served as Chair of the Illinois Soybean Association, participated in the Illinois Ag Leadership Foundation and Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow, served as a Soy Ambassador and Kane County Farmland Protection Commissioner, and has played a key role in developing the Kane County Economic Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, Pitstick becomes the third Kane County farmer to win the Master Farmer Award (Eldon Gould, 1982 and Mike Kenyon, 2014); and

WHEREAS, Kane County continues to support agriculture as a cornerstone of the economy, culture, heritage, and essential food resource for both local and global communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Kane County Board does hereby recognize Steve Pitstick for his extraordinary contribution to farming, his family, and his community and congratulate him on his 2024 Master Farmer Award.

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