

Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 94, No. 1 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821 January, 2016

“Champaign County Farm Bureau will strive to assist families in agriculture by recognizing and responding to issues of concern while strengthening partnerships and improving farm family life for this and future generations.”

The Importance of Civic Engagement

By: David Fulton

Without you as a member, the Champaign County Farm Bureau would not be what it is today, thank you! However, only being a member sometimes is not enough. As an example, the Champaign County Farm Bureau has term limits for our Board of Directors, so each year 1/3rd of our Board is up for re-election. We also have a number of committee's that do an extraordinary amount of programing that benefit you as a member, agriculture as a whole and the community. These committee's and working groups need your help. These two examples within the Farm Bureau are examples of civic engagement, stepping forward and offering your time for the greater good of our organization. Today, agricultures representation must extend beyond the Farm Bureau. A key area in the county that currently has commissioner openings is drainage districts. Currently the following districts have openings: Harwood & Kerr DD (two openings); Kerr & Compromise DD; Salt Fork Drainage District; St. Joseph #6 DD; Two-Mile Slough DD; West Branch DD; Willow Branch; Pesotum Consolidated DD. Mark Gebhards of Illinois Farm Bureau has shared the importance of civic engagement. “Government starts at a local level”, said Gebhards. Drainage districts serve as an excellent example, as drainage is a critical portion of ag-

riculture; it is urgent that Champaign County farmers get these seats. As the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy still weighs on all producers, drainage districts are the beginning of a conversation that involves the agricultural industry. Often we hear the expression “Why do I need to do it when the next person will”. Champaign County needs more agriculture opinion and voices involved in local units of government. With less agriculture representation, there will be more challenges in the future, said Gebhards. A township board, or school board, is a great place for agriculture too. Any form of local government can use the insight of an active producer to benefit agriculture and their community. Gebhards went on to say that being engaged in the process is more than just casting a vote on an issue on the agenda, it's educating and advocating. “There is not an understanding of how agriculture works/operates.” With agriculture contributing significant economic input to our communities, it is up to organizations such as Farm Bureau (and individuals in the agricultural industry) to erase “grey areas” and have discussions with consumers within our community on farming practices. We can no longer expect the consumer to simply understand everything we do within agriculture. Gebhards said, “As we see a decline in production agriculture we will continue to see less representation for agriculture in our local governments”.

Civic Engagement Continued on Pg. 3....

Leadership Academy

The 2015-2016 Leadership Academy has met four times since it's start in November of 2015. We have learned about characteristics of a leader, participated in Colors Training, had discussion on current issues in agriculture, visited ag sites in Chicago, participated in effective media interviews (radio and television) and most recently learned more about recruiting and motivating volunteers - *see photos below*



Leadership Academy

Sue Grey, President & CEO of the United Way of Champaign County discussed Recruiting & Motivating Volunteers.

Frye Makes Final Four



Above: Landon Frye proudly displays his state finalist plaque at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago at the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The agricultural industry faces changes and challenges every day. Young farmers and agri-business professionals discussed ideas with hopes to find a solution that might be implemented one day to better the agricultural industry. Landon Frye, Champaign County Young Ag Leader recently competed in the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Discussion Meet at the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting at the Palmer House in Chicago. The Illinois Farm Bureau Discussion meets start at a district level – Frye advanced after the district 12 discussion meet, as a delegate, to the state annual meeting representing Champaign County. Training for the discussion meet in Chicago happens well before annual meeting. A series of training calls are made that contestants can join to practice having discussion and listen to past training calls. The state discussion meet is set up in a round robin series: Round Robin #1, Round Robin #2, Sweet Sixteen, and Final Four. The 2015 discussion meet topics included: How should Farm Bureau protect and encourage producers' ability to use new technology and how the organization can work with government and the public to ensure public acceptance while encouraging innovations; whether Farm

Bureau should draft policy to protect livestock producers from false accusations regarding animal welfare; how to balance agriculture's water needs with maintaining vibrant communities and how historical water rights influence the discussion; how Farm Bureau could get the public to support right-to-farm laws and if those laws should be determined on a state or federal level; and how young farmers can influence state and local policy that more effectively balances the social and economic interests of farmers and ranchers versus burdensome federal regulation. Twenty-four district winners competed this year to claim the winning title at the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Illinois Farm Bureau has stated that they support the discussion meet with the goal of expanding communication skills and leadership on behalf of agriculture by working together to reach a solution on current issues in agriculture. Frye represented Champaign County well and we are proud of his accomplishments at the 2015 Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Frye demonstrated great enthusiasm towards the topics provided at this year's 2015 annual discussion meet and we congratulate him on making it to the final four.



Leadership Academy

Chris Hausman, District 12 Director with Illinois Farm Bureau discussed Nutrient Management & Trade Issues Tour to Germany.

Send address changes to: CCFB News, 801 N Country Fair Dr., Champaign, IL 61821

Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Photo Recap



Representative Adam Brown giving an update at our District 12 Meesession at annaul meeting



CCFB President, Eric Suits introduces Myla Munro and recognizes Ag in the Classroom efforts



Representative Chad Hayes giving an update



Young Ag Leader at Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting (Left to Right)Reid Thompson, Heather Thompson, Amanda Zwilling, Kirk Builtta, Luke Zwilling, Landon Frye, Constance Herriott, Chris Crider, Daniel Herriott



Agriculture Leaders of Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow (ALOYTT) Challenges YOU to a hand of Euchre!

ALL FARM BUREAU MEMBERS WELCOME!!! Games start at 2 p.m. and last until 4 p.m. Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium

Mark these dates on your 2016 calendar!!!

January 10
January 24
February 14
February 28
March 13



“Check Your Calendar!”

2016 -January -2016

8-9	Illini Farm Toy Show	Fri: 5-9p.m. & Sat: 9a.m.-5p.m.
11	Women’s Committee	9:30a.m.
12	Issue Series - Lauren Lurkins (Water issues)	6:30p.m.
14	Prime Timers	10a.m.
15	Landowner’s Workshop	9a.m.
18	Lady Landowners	9:30a.m.
19	Legislative Meeting	7:30a.m.
19	Premier Ladies Marketing	9a.m.
21	Full Board	6:30p.m.
22-23	Young Leader Conference in Peoria	
25	CCFB ANNUAL MEETING	5:30p.m.

February

1	Marketing Club	6:30p.m.
8	Women’s Committee	9:30a.m.
9	Issues Series	6:30p.m.



January President’s Report

December 29, 2015

Extreme continues to be the theme for 2015 as it comes to an end. We experienced moderate to even warm temperatures for the month of December and we ended the year with a precipitation event that parallels volumes received back in June. Through all of this I hope that you and your family were able to experience the peace and comfort that the holiday season should provide. We have also experienced a year of extremes in issues that we faced and continue to deal with as we transition to 2016. As we enter January and prepare for the AFBF Annual Meeting in Orlando January 9-12, it is appropriate to summarize activities of the IFB Annual Meeting in Chicago. Landon Frye represented CCFB well making it all the way to the finals of the Discussion Meet. Brad Uken received an award for his performance as manager of CCFB. CCFB was also successful in getting a resolution into IFB policy that implements the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy into policy for the first time. CCFB once again made membership quota this year and was well represented by a contingent of almost 50 members attending the meeting Dec. 5-8. We continue to prepare for CCFB Annual Meeting which will occur on Monday, January 25, 2016 at the I-Hotel. I sincerely hope that you plan to attend and ask that you think about key issues occurring at the local, state, and federal levels. The Viewpoint Committee hopes to have a survey on key issues to obtain member perspective on at the meeting. It is this perspective that helps to generate resolution ideas to effect positive change within our organization and governmental levels. Our Young Ag Leaders Group along with other counties within our district will host their annual Illini Land Toy Show at the Wyndham Garden Inn the weekend of January 8-9. Please come out to support them and share fellowship with other members.

Happy New Year

-Eric Suits



Champaign County Farm Bureau - Your Connection to Agriculture Stay tuned for more YouTube videos from the Champaign County Farm bureau! Keeping you connected to news and upcoming events!

Introducing the Young Ag Leader Officer Team for 2016



(Left to Right): Constance Herriott-Secretary, Daniel Herriott-President, Chris Crider-Treasurer, Reid Thompson-Vice President

The Young Ag Leaders held their annual elections at their November 2015 meetingat the Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium to vote in new officers for the 2016 year. The officer team has a new calendar designed for the new year, stay tuned for exciting and upcoming events! Their annual toy show will be January 8th and 9th at the Wyndham Garden Inn.

FREE
Light Breakfast

Landowner Workshop

How the **Farm Bill and CRP** Can Benefit
YOUR Conservation Needs on the Farm

FREE
Light Breakfast

When-January 15th
Time-9:00a.m.
Champaign County Farm
Bureau Auditorium

Join us for a morning of informative discussion about the benefits of the Farm Bill and CRP. With Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategies being placed; learn about better conservation practices and what the USDA and Pheasants Forever can do for YOU!

Please RSVP
Champaign County Farm Bureau
Office: (217) 352-5235

Presentations Include:

- CRP Program:**
New Practices and
New Rental Rates \$\$
- Lincoln Heritage:**
Rx Burn and Burn Association
- Local Chapter Benefits:**
Resources for
Pheasants Forever Members
- Farmer Panel:**
What's Working for Local
Producers on Their Farms

A Word From Jason Bleich

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

The Champaign County Bureau, Pheasants Forever, and the USDA will be hosting a Landowner Workshop on Jan 15, 2016, at 9 a.m., at the CCFB Auditorium.

Jason Bleich, an Illinois Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist with Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever, will be the featured speaker the workshop on Jan 15, 2016. Jason partners with USDA offices in a five county region including Champaign, Douglas, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion to enroll farmers in Farm Bill programs. Jason says “now is a great time to enroll in CRP. Average CRP rental rates for my five county area are \$220-\$250 per acre.” In addition, a panel made up of four full time farmers, with land currently enrolled in CRP programs

will be on hand to answer questions and talk about how CRP works for them.

Landowners are encouraged to come out and learn more about the Lincoln Heritage Burn Association. They will be on hand discussing how they are willing to help landowners with prescribed burns. Prescribed burns are considered one of the best management practices available and Lincoln Heritage can help a landowner for free or a small donation.

The new Pheasants Forever Chapter Representative will also feature several grant programs available to landowners.

Mark your calendar and join us on January 15!

our local government. Civic engagement can be presented in many capacities and levels, but it starts with you as an individual to make the difference. If you’re interested in some of the vacancies within local unit of governments, one source to find these is on the Champaign County website, www.co.champaign.il.us As for FBACT and that two minute contact to your elected official, it’s simple to sign up, just log onto the Illinois Farm Bureau website at www.ilfb.org and you’ll see the simple instructions to get started. Once you’re signed up IFB will send you everything you need to know about making the contact.

DID YOU KNOW??

You can become a Champaign County Farm Bureau Young Ag Leader at the age of 18?? If you are under the age of 35 you can still apply! Call our office with any questions, or for more information: PH (217) 352-5235

Upcoming Events:

- Friday, February 19th - Bowling and pizza at Old Orchard
- Thursday, April 7th - Meeting at CCFB (executive meeting prior to meeting)

2016 Marketing Club

Joe Burke, Chairman
CCFB Marketing Club

Sharpen YOUR Strategy
by Attending These Marketing Club
Opportunities:

Plan NOW to Attend the
2016 Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
on MONDAY, JANUARY 25,
when the CCFB Marketing Club presents a special
Marketing Meeting
beginning at 5 p.m. at the I-Hotel, Champaign!
Featuring Merrill Crowley

Illinois Farm Bureau has an app for you!



Grab your smart phone and download a free app for Illinois Farm Bureau members. It gives you the information you need to make anywhere, anytime decisions for your farm:

Local Weather
Local Cash Bids
Future Quotes
IFB News & Events
Legislative Action
Request Notices

Download with Android

Using your phone, visit the Google Play Store and search for ILFB. When the search returns the Illinois Farm Bureau app click on the install button and download it to your device, just as you would any other free app.

Download with iPhone

Using your phone, visit the App Store and search for ILFB. When the search returns the Illinois Farm Bureau app, click on the install button and download it to your device, just as you would any other free app.

Download with iPad

Using your iPad, visit the App Store and search for ILFB. When the search returns the Illinois Farm Bureau app, click on the install button and download it to your device, just as you would any other free app.

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TO LEARN MORE: VISIT WWW.ILFB.ORG/MEMBER



Kirk Builta
Executive Director



www.ccfbfoundation.com
Like us on Facebook! [facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/ccfbfoundation)



Myla Munro
Earth Partners Coordinator

A Time to Reflect; A Time to Celebrate

Kirk Builta, Executive Director

As we turn the calendar into a new year we pause to take a look back upon the previous year's activities. We take a moment to reflect, and to celebrate the many joys of the closing year. 2015 is no different as we at the CCFB Foundation have many milestones to celebrate, people to thank and memories to share.

First and foremost we celebrate our donors. From our named scholarship donors, Countryside 10K runners, Coffee Shop Tour participants and Harvest Gala attendees, your support has helped us to reach new milestones this year. Over 8,000 elementary school children, their teachers and parents were reached through our Earth Partners program. Your support helped to create new curriculum, allowed us to expand our reach and educate more students on the benefits of Champaign County agriculture. You also helped us to encourage a record number of Champaign County students who received our scholarships this year. Our 51 Farm Bureau Scholars are studying at 8 different Midwestern colleges and all have one goal in mind; to make

an impact on the agricultural community. We celebrate our volunteers. From the dedicated individuals who serve on the CCFB Foundation Board of Directors, to our committee volunteers and other friends of the CCFB Foundation. Time is one of the most precious commodities; we appreciate all you do to further our mission and impact our communities.

2015 is special as we celebrate the retirement of three long-time Foundation board members, and a very special friend of the Foundation. Annette Ackerman, Brian Stark and Rick Swearingen; thank you for your combined 18+ years of service to our organization's Board of Directors. We also celebrate the dedicated service that retiring as interim Executive Director Larry Wood as given the Foundation. From his time as a board member and board President and his service as Executive Director; we appreciate your unwavering support. We wish all of our retiring colleagues well and know that we are better because of your service and the impact you all leave on our organization; will miss your presence around our board room.

Learning from the Pros

By: Myla Munro

In an effort to continue to broaden the scope of the Earth Partners program, we are looking for individuals interested in becoming a part of our new volunteer corps, dubbed "EP Pros". An EP Pro is anyone that is willing to share their time, passion and agricultural expertise with the Champaign County students in their community! Presenters might be active or retired farmers, agribusiness professionals, retired educators or college student willing to help on an as needed or volunteer basis. Working in conjunction with University of Illinois Extension Educator, Jamie Boas, those interested in volunteering will take part in a one-day training on Wednesday, January 27 from 10:00am-2:00pm in the Auditorium of the Champaign County Farm Bureau. During the training EP Pros will hear an overview of the four classroom presentations that will be offered to Champaign County teachers, have the opportunity to practice each lesson and learn more about how to positively impact today's youth. The lessons that will be covered at the training are designed to help students understand the role of farming and how it provides everything from food and clothes to other everyday products. As an EP Pro, we hope to con-

nect schools with local farmers, as well as other women and men involved in our agricultural community. The Ag in the Classroom lessons are designed to be hands-on, engaging and fun for both the students and the presenter! If you're interested in learning more or want to sign up for the training, please call the Champaign County Farm Bureau at 352-5235. Registration will close on Monday, January 18, 2016 and a minimum of 5 interested people is requested.



Women's Committee member, Loretta Stoerger (SP?), talks with a group of Unity West students about apples during a morning of AITC lessons on agriculture.



Foundation Board President Brian Stark presents retiring Executive Director Larry Wood with a gift for his time and dedication to the CCFB Foundation.

Finally, we celebrate the future. The school children who take part in our Earth Partners Ag in the Classroom

presentations, and the young adults who make us proud every day as Farm Bureau Scholars. You all are the reason the CCFB Foundation exists and you continue to make us proud. We're so happy to be a small part of your educational journey!

We celebrate the past and as a forward-thinking organization we also look to the horizon with anticipation. 2016 will mark the 30th year of the CCFB Foundation. Throughout the year we will celebrate our 360 former scholars as we look towards our next 30 years. We hope that you will join us in this celebration as we continue to provide educational opportunities that impact the future of the food and agricultural community in Champaign County, and around the world.

Agriculture Scholarships Available

As demand for agricultural professionals grow, one in seventeen careers in Illinois are directly related to agriculture; and in Champaign County alone, the industry boasts an employment of nearly 2,800 residents. Driven to support an industry thirsty for agricultural professionals, the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation provides scholarships to local students pursuing a post-secondary degree in an agricultural or related field of study.

"As the cost of college continues to skyrocket, today's college graduates enter the workforce with both a degree and a large amount of student debt. That's why what we're doing at the Foundation is so important" says Farm Bureau Foundation Executive Director Kirk Builta.

In addition to enrollment at an accredited college or university in an agricultural or related curriculum, successful applicants must maintain exceptional academic performance as well as community and school involvement. Applicants must be Champaign County residents and/or graduates (or graduating High School Seniors) of a High School located in Champaign County. Ultimately, the most qualified applicants will work to make a positive impact on future of the agricultural industry. Builta says it's important for all college-

bound students to consider studying agriculture and applying for Farm Bureau Scholarships. "Agriculture has always been more than combines, corn, and cows. The industry is thirsty for new hires in a variety of different career paths. This year our students are studying food science, engineering, meteorology and other agricultural-related degree paths."

Scholarships of no less than \$1,000 will be awarded to top candidates. Scholarship applications can be found on the Farm Bureau Foundation's website and are due no later than March 1st, 2016. Visit www.ccfbfoundation.com/apply to download the application.

Additional scholarship opportunities exist for Champaign County students pursuing a degree in agriculture. Children of farm families throughout Champaign, Ford and Vermilion Counties are qualified for the Freese Memorial Scholarship provided by the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Flatville. This scholarship is administered by the CCFB Foundation and awarded by the Church. The Freese Scholarship applications can be found on the CCFB Foundation website at www.ccfbfoundation.com/apply. The Illinois Farm Bureau Foundation also has an extensive list of scholarships available to agriculture leaders. These opportunities can be found at www.iaafoundation.org

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation wishes you and your family a very Happy New Year!

Fond Farewell Mike Turner!



Mike Turner led Illini FS as General Manager for the past five years. As of Dec. 1, 2015, Mike took on a new role working for Growmark in Bloomington, IL. Mike is now the Vice President of Midwest Operations for Growmark! He is now responsible for working with Midwest FS Members & Cooperatives on the business side of things. Mike is celebrating his 29th year working in the Growmark system. Mike says what he misses most about working at Illini FS is “being directly involved with farmers, the Board of Directors, customers, and the Illini FS employees. I really miss the day to day contact with all of the employees!” Mike is working in McLean County, but is going to remain a resident of Champaign County! Best of luck in your new role! We hope 2016 is good to you!

Welcome Illini FS General Manager, effective Jan 1, 2016, Mark Thornsborough!

A Good Year to Layer Fuel Purchases

In the last two quarters of 2014, U.S. crude prices fell by 48%. The fall accelerated in the last five weeks of the year after OPEC's Thanksgiving Day announcement that they would NOT cut production. This new approach dismayed some OPEC members as well as other world producers. Saudi Arabia had tired of being OPEC's swing producer, always taking the brunt of production cuts and consequently income loss. They, in effect, declared war on high-priced production around the world (mostly North America), and vowed to shut it down at great expense to themselves. Crude oil has been range-bound for several weeks, caught between opposing sentiments. Drilling rigs in the U.S. have fallen dramatically, budgets and capital expenditures have been cut, workers have been laid off and yes, production has begun to fall. All of these conjure up images of supply and demand that could come back into balance in short order. But U.S. crude production is down very little at this point, and global demand has been lethargic. Global economic recovery is still very slow, with China concerns at the forefront.

Maintaining Stored Grain Requires Diligence

The 2015 harvest is history and I hope your experience was safe and satisfying. A year that started with an extreme overabundance of water, followed by dry conditions, ended with a run of amazing harvest / tillage weather rivaling that of any year I remember. The best news is the yields were at or slightly above average with good quality and dried down quickly. Now that your crops are snuggled safely in their respective repositories, the immediate focus needs to be on keeping the grain safe and viable. The best way to do that is to monitor, inspect, sample, aerate, and repeat.

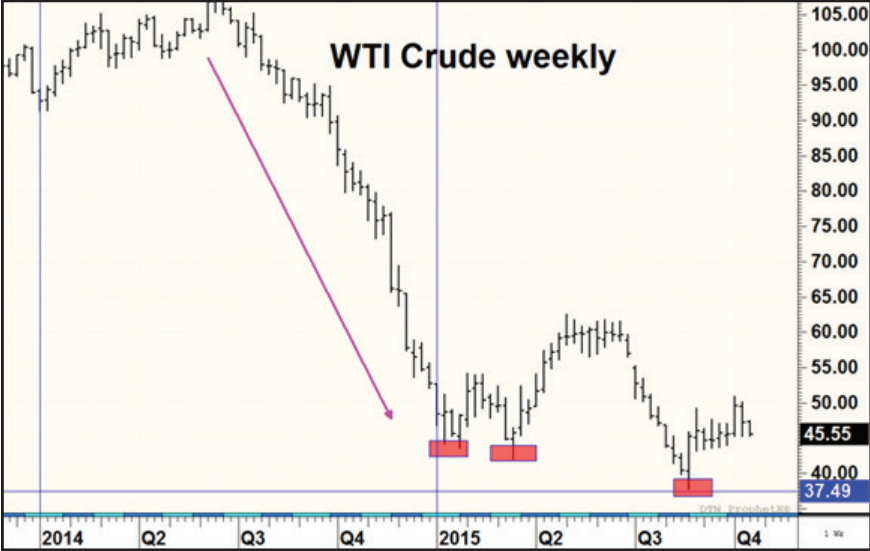
Here are the basics:
Observe your stored grain weekly, especially during critical fall and spring periods when average air temperatures are changing rapidly. Check the surface of the grain for signs of crusting, wet, sticky or frozen kernels. Inspect the underside of the roof for signs of condensation. Probe the grain surface in several places with a grain thermometer on a length of rod to detect any heating. If any of these signs appear, you must react quickly as conditions can accelerate and jeopardize the entire grain mass. Stored grain needs to be cooled down to 35 to 40 degrees for winter storage. Aeration cycles need to be started anytime the average 24 hour temperature is 10 to 15 degrees cooler than the temperature of the grain. Air follows the path of least resistance. Accumulated fines will block airflow and can go out of condition if not broken up or removed. If grain is peaked or not level, air will escape at the shallowest level. Unaerated grain will cause problems as temperature differentials increase with the seasonal changes.
The two biggest mistakes in aerating grain are:
1. Not running the fans long enough. If the temperature of the entire grain mass is not equalized, problems will occur at the level in the bin where the temperature is unequal.
2. Running fans too long or when the atmospheric conditions are inappropriate. If the relative humidity of the air is too low you can severely over dry the grain and lose significant saleable weight. The corn aeration chart below is a great tool to guide you when aerating stored corn. Be proactive in keeping tabs on your stored grain and follow these simple rules to get maximum return from this year's crop.

Randy Holthaus is GROWMARK's grain systems operation manager. His email address is rholthaus@growmark.com.

NO. 2 YELLOW CORN MOISTURE EQUILIBRIUM				
R.H.%	55%	60%	65%	70%
TEMP. F.				
30	14.55	15.22	15.94	16.72
35	14.16	14.84	15.56	16.34
40	13.79	14.48	15.21	16.00
45	13.45	14.14	14.88	15.68
50	13.14	13.83	14.57	15.37
55	12.84	13.54	14.28	15.09
60	12.56	13.26	14.01	14.82

World crude surpluses are still growing, and Iran's barrels are almost certain to add to that by first quarter of 2016. Producers and other customers have demonstrated reluctance to book contracts even though diesel and gasoline prices have not been this low in six years. Adding to the confusion and lack of confidence is the reluctance of the Federal Open Market Committee to raise interest rates in the U.S. While uncertainty abounds, producers should follow the same plan that we have long recommended. In the coming months book a portion of your fuel needs for next year while futures prices and basis are typically on their lows. A contract locks you in at a flat price, thus eliminating your exposure to basis. How much to contract varies with each individual and their risk tolerance, but my recommendation would be between 25 and 50%. If prices fall further, you can still buy 50 to 75% of your needs at the current daily price. If prices move up, you have locked in

some cheaper fuel. No one knows when we've reached a bottom or a top in the market. Hedge your bets by doing what has worked for you in the past. And pull your fuel contracts when they are in the money. Talk to your local FS Energy Specialist for pricing information. Jackie McKinnis is a GROWMARK senior energy analyst. Her email address is jmckinnis@growmark.com.



MARK THORNSBROUGH, GENERAL MANAGER

Propane Demand

Back in November of 2013 we were talking about high demand and the potential for prices to continue in an upward trend. During that time frame, grain drying demand, inventories, petrochemical demand, and exports were also included in most propane discussions. I think it is worth revisiting those same topics again.

Agricultural demand makes up a small percentage of the overall propane demand, but can still affect supplies and prices greatly. Very little grain drying demand this fall plus strong production has led to abundant inventories in the United States overall. Where is all the propane located? As of week 44, total U.S. inventories were at 102 million barrels. This is the highest we have ever seen in the United States and more than 50 percent above the five-year average. At the same time, the Midwest sits at more than 28 million barrels, which is only about 10 percent over the five-year average and roughly 5 percent over a year ago. The Gulf Coast is a whole different story sitting at 86 percent above the five-year average with almost 63 million barrels.

Petrochemical companies use propane and other feed stocks to make things like plastics, chemicals, and many other products. A large portion of these plants are located in the Gulf Coast region near fractionation plants and refineries. Currently, petrochemical demand is around 374,000 barrels per day, slightly under the five-year average, but roughly 50,000 barrels a day higher than just one year ago. However, petrochemical demand typically slows down as we work our way through the fourth quarter each year. Finally, let's talk a little about propane exports. The last few weekly numbers show 680,000 barrels per day, which is an astounding number considering in early 2013 we were exporting about 150,000 barrels per day. With 680,000 barrels being a new weekly high, exports and weather are arguably the biggest wild cards when you look at what propane demand could be for the upcoming months. Dan Pannier is GROWMARK's manager, propane operations. His email address is dpannier@growmark.com.



Vann Parkin
Country Financial
Agency Manager



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Marcia Woolcott
Administrative Assistant
Champaign Agency

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Partnering to benefit
Illinois Farmers



"Don't Worry, Retire Happy. 7 steps to Retirement Security"



At COUNTRY Financial® we care about keeping our customers informed when it comes to their future. That's why we'd like to invite you to learn about planning for a secure retirement with Tom Hegna, a bestselling author and retirement expert. Tom's message is about understanding retirement risks and setting a path to a secure financial future.

Where Hilton Garden Inn | 1501 S. Neil Street | Champaign, IL 61821

When Tuesday, February 2, 2016 | 5:30 p.m - 7:30 p.m

RSVP Please call 217-352-0012 to reserve your seat. Deadline is January 25, 2016

Vann Parkin

Agency Manager
801 N Country Fair Dr
Ste B
Champaign, IL 61821
vann.parkin@countryfinancial.com
217-352-0012

No cost to attend. This seminar is hosted for informational purposes and is not intended to promote any product or service. By reserving a place in this seminar, we may contact you about insurance or financial products in the future. The views and opinions of Tom Hegna are his own and are not adopted or endorsed by the COUNTRY Financial family of companies or their representatives.

0915-000HO - 19227 - 12/18/2015

To help you plan for the future, COUNTRY Financial® crop experts have teamed up with your local county Farm Bureau to host a crop seminar near you this winter.

Please join us!

You'll get:

- Updates on performance of ARC & PLC along with Federal Crop changes in the Farm Bill
- Advice on using grain marketing and crop insurance together
- Farm Legacy Planning presentation by best-selling author and retirement expert, Tom Hegna
- Refreshments, giveaways and the chance to win door prizes*

Where: Hilton Garden Inn

1501 S. Neil Street
Champaign, IL 61821

When: Tuesday, February 2, 2016

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Lunch Included)

RSVP: (217) 352-0012

By 1/25/2016

For additional dates and locations near you, please visit countrycrop.com. We hope you can attend!

Vann Parkin
Agency Manager
801 N Country Fair Dr, Ste B
Champaign, IL 61821
vann.parkin@countryfinancial.com
countryfinancial.com/vann.parkin
(217)352-0012

*No purchase necessary. This is a no-cost, no obligation educational seminar and insurance sales presentation.

Federal Crop Insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL, an equal opportunity provider. Auto, Home, and Commercial policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Casualty Insurance Company®, or COUNTRY Preferred Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL. Life insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Life Insurance Company® and COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®, Bloomington, IL. Fixed Annuities issued by COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®, Bloomington, IL. ©2015 CC Services, Inc. MPCMIWTH-00



Travis Heath
352-4555



Keith Garrett
485-3010



Jessie DeHaan
352-3466



Craig Voigt
328-0023



Dan Duitsman
469-2033



Terry Hill
469-9800



Bret Kroencke
359-9391



Nathan Hubbard
892-4479



Chris Greenwold
355-8675



John May
352-3341



Aaron Wheeler
586-6170



Steve Derry
352-2655



Scott Jackson
359-9335



Jim Nelson
892-4479



Stan Ochs
352-3296



Brian Lowry
352-0186



Chuck Rippy
586-5030



AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

Austin Beaty
352-0012

Celebrate 2016 with Prime Timers! January 14 starting at 10 a.m.

Concerned about
Weather Cancellations?
- Watch for notices on WCIA
- Tune in WDWS for news
- Call the office at 352-5235



Ken Roellig, Prime Timers Chairman

- Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month
- Cost is \$8 to attend

- Call 352-5235 ahead of each meeting to reserve your spot
Mark your calendar - Don't miss a single Prime Timer date!

Prime Timers 2016:

March 12

April 9

May 14



Kick Off 2016 by Saving! Take Advantage of YOUR Farm Bureau Membership

Grainger -Farm Bureau Members enjoy 10% off Grainger Catalog Prices. Free shipping w/online purchases. Visit a local Grainger branch or order online.

Ford -Illinois Farm Bureau members get \$500 Bonus Cash* toward the purchase or lease of any eligible 2014/2015/2016 Ford vehicle.

IAA Credit Union -Looking to refinance your home? Want a credit card with great rates? Or maybe you simply want to talk to a live person when you're banking? You'll find what you need with the IAA Credit Union. Not only does IAACU offer very competitively-priced first-time mortgage, home equity, consumer, and auto loans, it also works hard to make the process as quick and easy as possible.

Promac -Promac offers Illinois Farm Bureau members creative and unique ways to promote your business or farm. From polo shirts to reusable grocery bags, seeing your logo everywhere has never been more fun! For giveaways, incentive gifts and awards promoting your business or your favorite charity, Promac has solutions for you! Prices are approximately 20% below the average retail price with a Lowest Price Guarantee on any quoted price of the exact product provided the quote is submitted to Promac before an order is placed.

ADT Security -Illinois Farm Bureau in partnership with ADT Security through its most tenured Dealer, PowerLink, LLC, offers a home security member benefit to county Farm Bureau members. ADT Security which offers 24

hour alarm monitoring services for protection against burglary, fire and high levels of carbon monoxide in the home along with other services is now available to county Farm Bureau members at a discounted rate. County Farm Bureau members can save \$5 off monthly monitoring and receive a free security system valued at \$850. The benefit also includes free monitored smoke detector services and homeowners insurance savings. Please call 1-877-289-4070 to speak with an ADT representative for more information and eligibility.

Case IH -Case IH has extended its list of great discounts for Illinois Farm Bureau members to include hay and forage equipment. You can cut, condition, and bale while saving \$300 to \$500 when purchasing qualifying Case IH equipment from participating dealerships. The deal gets even better... the discount is stackable, meaning it can be used with other discounts, promotions, rebates or offers that may be provided by Case IH or a Case IH dealership. Before you take advantage of this discount, you'll need a current IFB membership verification certificate. Present your certificate to the Case IH dealer at time of purchase to receive the incentive discount on these great products.

Caterpillar -The IFB discount on Cat machines can be combined with any current retail discounts, promotions, rebates or offers available through Caterpillar or its dealers, with the exception of other membership purchase incentives (NCBA discount). All IFB members are eligible. Discounts cannot be applied to past purchases. Members must provide a valid Member Verification Certificate to the Cat dealer at the time of purchase to receive the discount. Certificates may be obtained at www.fbadvantage.com/cat

See More Illinois Farm Bureau
Benefits at:
www.ilfb.org

Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting *Photo Recap Continued*



2015 YAL President, Luke Zwilling and
2016 YAL President, Daniel Herriott
*THANK YOU LUKE FOR YOUR
SERVICE IN 2015*



Illinois State Treasurer, Mike Frerichs,
making a special visit to District 12 to offer a friendly greeting and some humor.



Manager, Brad Uken and President, Eric Suits after the 2015 Award Ceremony!

The CCFB Membership Benefit List!

All you have to do is
**SHOW YOUR
FARM BUREAU
MEMBER CARD**
at time of purchase
to get the discounts!

Need more information?
Call Deidra Ochs at
217-352-5235 or go to:
www.ccfarmbureau.com

CURRENT BENEFITS

-A & R ELECTRIC
-ALL ABOUT EYES
-ARROW AUTO GLASS
-BARBECK COMMUNICATIONS
-BARD OPTICAL
-BLOSSOM BASKET FLORIST
-C.A.R.'S AUTO DETAILING
-COUNTRY SQUIRE CLEANERS
-CULVER'S
-DRIVEWAY CHIMES, OGDEN
-INTERSTATE BATTERIES
-GREEN PURPOSE
-FASTENAL, CHAMPAIGN
-THE FITNESS CENTER
-FURNITURE WORLD OF
RANTOUL
-GARBER'S CLEANERS
-GOOSE CREEK FIREARMS
TRAINING
-HOUCHENS HEATING & A/C
GROUP
-ILLINI HEARING
-NANCY'S CREATIONS
-NAPA AUTO PARTS
-NICK'S PORTERHOUSE OF
PAINTS
-O'REILLY AUTO PARTS
-PARD'S WESTERN SHOP
-RAHN EQUIPMENT COMPANY
-RAINBOW INTERNATIONAL
-RANTOUL GOODYEAR TIRE
CENTER
-RANTOUL PIZZA PUB
-REFINERY HEALTH CLUB
-ROSATI'S PIZZA & CATERING
-SAFELY FILED
-SERVICE MASTER
-SHOOTER'S BAR AND
GRILL - RANTOUL
-RED WING SHOES
-SIDNEY DAIRY BARN
-SUNSINGER WINERY
-SULLIVAN-PARKHILL
AUTOMOTIVE
-TICKETSATWORK.COM
-WYLDEWOOD CELLARS
-ZA'S RESTAURANT
*BENEFITS SUBJECT TO
CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE*

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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Waters, Marketing Committee Co-Chairmen; Paulette Brock,
Women's Committee Co-Chair; Ken Roellig, Prime Timers;
Luke Zwilling, Young Ag Leaders

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday
Manager -- Bradley Uken, FBCM
Assistant Manager -- David Fulton
Communications Director -- Lesley Gooding
Administrative Assistant -- Brenda Wood
Membership Director -- Deidra Ochs
Earth Partners Coordinator -- Myla Munro
Foundation Executive Director -- Kirk Builta

Contact us at (217) 352-5235
www.ccfarmbureau.com

Champaign County Farm Bureau Wishes You and Your Family A HAPPY New Year!



Dr. Robert Easter

Robert A. Easter served as Interim Provost for Academic Affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Professor of Animal Sciences and Nutritional Sciences. Prior to his appointment at Interim Provost, Dr. Easter served as Dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) from 2002 to 2009. He has served as Head of the Department of Animal Sciences from 1996 to 2001, and has been on the Animal Sciences faculty since 1976. In 2006, President George W. Bush appointed Dr. Easter to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD), and in 2007 he was appointed as Chair of BIFAD. Dr. Easter serves as a Director of iBIO Institute. Dr. Easter is also a member of the American Society of Animal Science, the British Society of Animal Science, The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology and the Illinois Council for Food and Agricultural Research (C-FAR).

Registration Deadline:
MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2015

The 104th Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Monday, January 25, 2016 -Dinner begins at 6 p.m.
The I-Hotel and Conference Center

1900 South First Street
Champaign, Illinois
Cost: \$15 per person



Marketing Meeting
beginning at 5 p.m. at the I-Hotel, Champaign!
Featuring Merrill Crowley

Return your check with this order form to: Champaign County Farm Bureau
801 N. Country Fair Drive - Champaign, IL 61821

Name: _____
Address: _____
Number of Reservations: _____ Total Included with Order: _____

Champaign County Farm Bureau Issue Series

Join us as we address hot button, agriculture issues!
Become more knowledgeable about issues affecting you!
Be ready to answer the call to action requests!

All programs start at 6:30p.m.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

- 1/12/16:** Lauren Lurkins, Illinois Farm Bureau
Water issues - **WOTUS, drainage, locks & dams.**
- 2/9/16:** Craig Gundersen, Professor of Agricultural
Strategy—**Food Sustainability**
- 3/22/16:** Tamara Nelsen, Illinois Farm Bureau &
Leia Kedem, MS, RD—**GMOs**



Issue Series events are open to all CCFB Members.
Attend any or all events!

Location: CCFB Auditorium, 801 N Country Fair Dr.,
Champaign, IL

RSVP Champaign County Farm Bureau 217-352-5235

Worried about loved ones in your life?
Feel at ease with this membership
benefit provided to you by Illinois
Farm Bureau and Peace of Mind!



Protects Your Loved Ones At Home,
With Just The Push Of A Button

- 100% waterproof; essential as most falls of elderly occur in bathroom.
- Only product that works with ALL phone lines: Standard, DSL, Internet/Cable, and VOIP.
- Longest range from base unit on the market, 600 feet minimum.
- Open 24/7, 365 days a year.

Members receive one free month
of monitoring and no initial fee

