



# Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 94, No. 3 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821 March, 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 Champaign County Farm Bureau Elects New President

By: Lesley Gooding



Chris Murray, CCFB President

Chris Murray has been elected President of the Champaign County Farm Bureau. Chris is a fourth generation corn and soybean farmer and also sells Pioneer Seed. He is a graduate of Fisher High School, Parkland College, and Illinois State University. Chris has been involved with the Farm Bureau board for 5 years. He has served in various roles including being an IAA Annual Meeting Delegate, First Vice President, serving on the Membership Committee, serving on the Viewpoint Committee, and taking an active role in Partners In Ag. Actively participating on the board, Chris has seen several Farm Bureau changes over the years.

- Earth Partners and the CCFB Foundation have grown over the years. The annual Gala has become bigger and changed venues. The other Foundation fundraising events have also grown.
- CCFB is no longer selling health insurance to members, selling off that business in 2015.
- The hot button agriculture issue of GMO's has been evolving over the years. Agriculture is, of course, on the front lines and is

striving to create positive attitudes and awareness with local consumers regarding GMO safety and use. Chris is particularly proud of CCFB's involvement in the "Let's Keep Growing - Gifford Tree Effort." In spring of 2014 and 2015, Champaign County Farm Bureau partnered with other local organizations and the Gifford community, hit by a tornado in 2013, to help plant trees with more than 200 volunteers. Gifford residents were offered three, free trees and volunteer help in planting, staking, watering and mulching the trees. CCFB members organized two shifts of crews for each part of the planting process. As CCFB President, Chris says he "is interested in educating the consumer about our food supply, connecting people back to the farm, and getting people back to Springfield to participate in legislative issues." Members may see some slight changes in committee names and communication methods. Lady Landowners, which meets six times per year and is open to all CCFB women, will be changed to include any landowner. Featured topics will educate and inform ALL absentee landowners. Members should also be on the lookout for webinars designed to keep absentee landowners and others in touch with what is happening on the farm. Chris is hoping to give all board members a better perspective of what Farm Bureau does and what each committee does by encouraging committee involvement.

- Chris has several goals as President
  - Make all board members feel like they are involved and have a say in the direction of topics at the farm bureau
  - Make sure CCFB is accessible to farmer's needs and give them a voice.
  - Focus on family farms and bring generations back to the farm. Educate the generations removed from the farm about where they came from and get them connected to the farm!
  - Strive for CCFB to be the hub for information for local consumers

Chris is very active in his local community. He is a past member of the Little League Board, Past Fisher Youth Wrestling Coach, and was a member of the Fisher Stadium Renovation Team. Chris and his wife Arika are the proud parents of three girls Lexi, Aubrie, and Ava. Chris' hobbies include snowmobiling, St. Louis Cardinal baseball, and watching his girls participate in activities.

## Introducing the New Directors of the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board

By: Lesley Gooding

Champaign County Farm Bureau recently reorganized its Board of Directors. Several retired directors were honored and new directors were ushered in. Take some time to meet the new CCFB Directors and find out which townships they will be representing.

### Christie Delaney – Newcomb Township

- o Christie is involved in a grain and livestock farm in Champaign County.
- o Area of greatest concern to agriculture – Educating the public about agriculture and why it should be important to them.
- o Interests & Activities – Watching kids play ball, scrapbooking, and spending time with family.

**CCFB: Tell us about your background...did you grow up on a farm? Where did you go to high school or college? How did you end up in Fisher?**

Christie: My parents did not farm but they raised me on the farm that my great-grandparents owned and operated throughout their lives. I was raised in Fisher and graduated from Fisher High School. I went on to study Nursing and received my Associates Degree in Nursing at Parkland College. I married and moved back to Fisher where my husband and I farm today.

**CCFB: How did you become interested in agriculture? When did you really get your interest peaked? As a kid, young adult, in college?**

Christie: I became more interested in agriculture when I was dating my husband, who grew up on a farm. I now work full time in the Fall and Spring with my husband and as needed throughout the rest of the year. And the more I have participated in the farming operation over the years, the more interesting it has become.

**CCFB: Your area of greatest concern is educating the public about agriculture and why it should be important to them. Tell us a little bit about**

**misconceptions the public has and the impact this has on you as a farmer**

Christie: There are many misconceptions the public has about agriculture today. A few examples may be something like what kind of corn we raise, what kind of products are made from corn and soybeans, and what actually goes into raising a productive crop.

**CCFB: Is there anything you would like to accomplish related to educating the public while on the CCFB Board? Other interests that drive you and things you want to become involved in?**

Christie: I would like to help with the Farm Bureau's efforts to educate the public about how we can raise a profitable crop while preserving our land and water resources for our future generations.

**CCFB: What other hot button issues are facing agriculture?**

Christie: I think EPA regulations could be one of the biggest issues facing agriculture right now.

**CCFB: What excites you most about agriculture?**

Christie: I think what's exciting about agriculture is that it is a family affair. My family is doing it together and my children can be a part of the whole process.

**CCFB: Why did you become involved with Farm Bureau?**

Christie: Becoming involved in Farm Bureau is a good opportunity to be a part of other aspects of agriculture other than production such as governmental policies related to farming and how we can influence those issues.

**CCFB: On a personal level...you are interested in scrapbooking, spending time with family, and watching your kids play ball. Anything you are dying to do or somewhere you would love to go?**

Christie: I would love to visit Hawaii. I think an agricultural tour on the islands would be very interesting.

Continue new directors on pg 3...

Don't Miss Our Last Presentation of the Issue Series!  
March 22nd at 6:30PM  
GMOs with Tamara Nelsen, ILFB, and Leia Kedem, MS, RD





Registration is now open: \$5 to attend!

# 2016 Women's Committee

## SPRING FLING!



Wednesday, April 13, beginning at 10 a.m.

Our program will feature Foral Deisgns (presenter to be announced) We will also have a mini concert from our very own Assistant Manager, David Fulton and sawing on a fiddle, Nathaniel Dickson, bringing you country classics, originals and bluegrass favorites! Registration and payment must be made at the FB office. We will definitely be embracing spring!

*Lunch Served by the Women's Committee*

**Registration Deadline: Friday, April 8**

## ATTENTION

### LADY LANDOWNERS!



Join us at 9:30 a.m.  
for a tour and meal

**MARCH 21: ILLINI FS**

**Leverett Location: 1806 E Leverett Rd**

**Champaign , IL 61822**

As we grow closer to the season of spring,  
NOW IS THE TIME to see what local retailers have to offer!

JOIN US and meet new Illini FS General Manager, Mark Thornsborough! **Deadline: March 17th\*\***

**RSVP REQUIRED Call: (217) 352-5235**

Thank you for attending the ALOYTT Days this winter, see you next year!

Agriculture Leaders of Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow (ALOYTT)



**\*No more dates\* Will not be playing cards on March 13th.**


## "Check Your Calendar!"

# March - 2016

14	Women's Committee - Dave Newcomb Grain Safety	9:30AM
14	WILL Spring Crop Outlook	6:30PM
15	Legislative	7:30AM
15	Coffee Shop - EL Toro Neil ST.	NOON
16	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:00AM
17	Full Board	6:30PM
21	Lady Landowners - Leverett Illini FS	9:30AM
22	Issue Series	6:30PM
22	Coffee Shop - Dewey Community Church	NOON
23	Coffee Shop - JT Walkers	NOON
24	Coffee Shop - Philo Tavern	NOON
25	Coffee Shop - Stagecoach	NOON
25	OFFICE CLOSED - GOOD FRIDAY	
27	HAPPY EASTER	
28	Farm and Labor Medicine- Hosted by Women's Committee	6:30PM

### APRIL 2016

4	Marketing	6:30PM
7	Young Ag Leaders	6:30PM
11	Women's Committee @ Provena	10AM
13	Spring Fling	10AM
14	Prime Timers	10AM
19	Legislative	7:30AM



## March President's Report 2016

### Chris Murray

In just over a month your planter and tractor will be sitting in the lot figuring out which field will be the start of your 2016 crop season. Before that happens over the next couple of weeks we will all be contemplating our crop insurance choices. This decision isn't made possible without our past choices to make those action requests to our legislators. As in all kinds of insurance we hope we never have to have a claim, but in years like 2012 it would be hard to put in following year's crop without this protection.

The office has been busy over the last month - lots of discussion on ways to help our members embrace the challenges ahead for the Ag industry. We need to continue and increase the awareness that the products we bring to the market are the safest and lowest cost product in the world. The market place is global and we need to continue to work on our trade agreements so we are considered the premier producer to feed the extra 2 billion people on the planet over the next 30 years.

I encourage everyone to pay attention to the legislative races that will be greatly affecting our way of life. Every vote does matter locally and nationally as we enter these races. It will take everyone's effort to get our state and nation back to its prosperous state.

Sincerely,

*Chris Murray*


### Congratulations to the 2015 Leadership Academy!



From Left to Right: Kevin Knott, Luke Zwilling, Lynn Doran, Chris Crider, Constance Herriott, Daniel Herriott and presenting the awards, Chris Murray

## Trying to Figure Out the Markets?

### What Percentage of New Crop Should I be Selling?



*Champaign County Farm Bureau Marketing Club*

*Invites you to:*

## WILL Radio

### Spring Outlook Meeting

**Monday, March 14- 6:30 p.m.**

### CCFB Auditorium



# University of Illinois Collegiate Farm Bureau

By: Lesley Gooding



University of Illinois Collegiate Farm Bureau members at the Illinois Young Leader Conference with Young Leader chair Evan Hultine.

Did you know the University of Illinois is home to the first Collegiate Farm Bureau (CFB)? August Schetter, a Jersey County native and crop science major, is the 2015-16 CFB President. August and other members of the U of I Collegiate Farm Bureau are planning a Spring Ag Advocacy Day which will take place on the south quad. The Ag Advocacy Day is a Collegiate Farm Bureau service project aimed at uniting all majors and networking with all students in the College of ACES, educating everyone about agriculture.

The Collegiate Farm Bureau holds monthly meetings and hosts different speakers to discuss topics from grain marketing to agriculture policy and everything in between. Collegiate Farm Bureau officers attend officer training at Illinois Farm Bureau over the summer. This is a great way for the Collegiate Farm Bureau members to make a connection to the Farm Bureau organization. August says “The Collegiate Farm Bureau is grateful to be invited to Champaign County Farm Bureau events. We really appreciate being included in events such as annual meeting, Young Ag Leader social events and meetings, and Young Leader Conference.”

This is a great way for these future agriculture leaders to learn about the Farm Bureau and work on projects to keep these organizations aligned. Collegiate Farm Bureau is the product of the Membership Action Team. Membership Action Teams consist of 10-15 volunteers who – in only two days- turn unique ideas and experiences into a year of activities and amazing results. ACTION TEAMS are for both the experienced leaders and those new to Farm Bureau. Voting and Associate members are eligible. The initial goal of CFB was to bridge the gap of Farm Bureau knowledge and interaction from the 4-H/FFA/ high school level to the Young Leaders. CFB was started in 2012 at the University of Illinois. CFB is a Registered Student Organization on each of the campuses and is non-major specific. Students are given an opportunity to network with industry professionals, learn about Farm Bureau and gain access to the same benefits all Illinois Farm Bureau members do. It has since expanded to ISU, SIU-C, WIU, Joliet Junior College and Highland Community College. There are approximately 425 collegiate members at the six colleges.

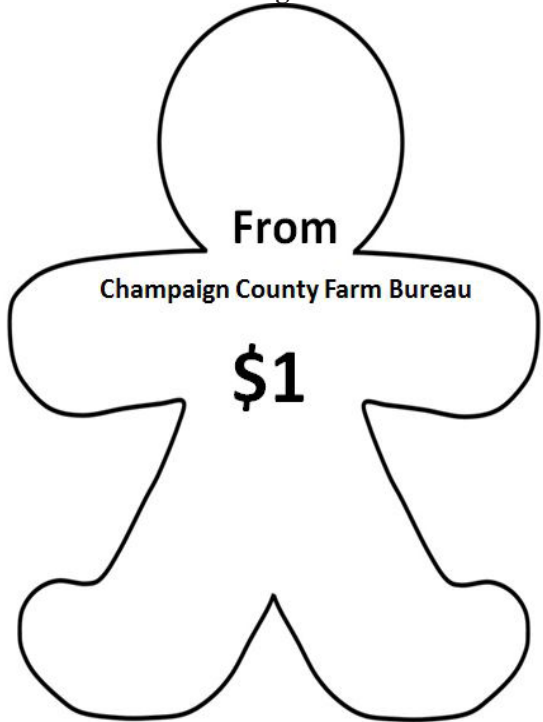
## CCFB Women’s Committee Raising Awareness for Ag Week

To honor Champaign County farmers, the Women’s Committee is recognizing the efforts made by farmers. National Ag Week is on March 13-19 – the CCFB Women’s Committee is having a donation drive to raise awareness for food insecurity and display the message “National AG Week ONE farmer feeds 155 people!”

They will be accepting donations for the Eastern Illinois foodbank from now until March 19th, with the goal of 155 people donate in the amount of a dollar or more. Every \$10, or more, donation, a barn will be given to represent the donor/organization. After your give a donation, you will get a cutout of a person to sign your name to display your support!

Stop by the Champaign County Farm Bureau Office today!

**EXAMPLE:**  
Cut outs will be hung in office window



Continued new directors from pg 1...



### Daniel Herriott – Young Ag Leader Chair

- o Daniel is involved with a corn and soybean farm in Champaign County.
- o Area of greatest concern to agriculture – Water Rights/Nutrients in the Water
- o Interests & Activities – Trap & Skeet Shooting, Woodworking, Outdoor Activities, Hunting, and the BEACH.

Daniel Herriott grew up on a farm in Sidney, IL. Daniel’s love of farming took off at a young age while falling asleep in the tractor and combine! He attended Unity High School, Parkland College, and Illinois State University.

Daniel has been involved with the Young Ag Leader Committee, but this is his first year serving as President. In 2016, the YAL Committee is striving to plan more social activities for members, find a new FFA/4-H program to support, and increase YAL membership and awareness.

Daniel has grown up with the Farm Bureau as part of his life. He said, “I am a past recipient of a Foundation Scholarship and a Leadership Academy Graduate. The Champaign County Farm Bureau has given me so much, it is right to give back! My parents were also heavily involved with the organization when I was a child, it has trickled down to me.”

Daniel and his wife Constance live in Sidney, IL. Daniel is currently a farm manager at Busey Bank and farms with his father and brother.

### Virginia Busboom – Compromise Township

- o Virginia is involved with crop farming in Champaign County.
  - o Area of greatest concern to agriculture – Marketing
  - o Interests & Activities – Horses & Flower Gardening
- Virginia Busboom began farming with her father and brother in 1980. Virginia, a third generation famer, grew up on a farm in northern Champaign County. She went to high school in Rantoul, attended college in Michigan and left the farm three various times, coming back and forth, before settling down back in Illinois.

This is Virginia’s first time serving on the CCFB Board of Directors. Virginia is drawing on the experience and insight she has gained from farming with her family. In 1996, Virginia’s father retired from farming and handed the reins to Virginia and her brother.

Virginia has special interest in the marketing of grain. She says “It is not an easy thing to understand. A farmer has to know what is going on with

marketing to succeed!” Making smart marketing decisions requires one to stay up to date and educated on marketing information. Virginia is currently enrolled in a Marketing Class at Parkland College and attends the Premier Marketing meetings held monthly.

Virginia believes the CCFB can help spread the message about the importance of agriculture. She has a special interest in getting younger people involved with farm life saying “FFA does a great job getting kids involved.” She also sees a great value in helping the community understand what farming is about; educating others about farming; and educating kids about where their food comes from.

In addition to on farm duties, Virginia has worked at Merry Ann’s Diner, Neil St. location, since 1999. She currently works four days per week. Virginia also stays busy taking care of four rescue horses, 7 rescue dogs and several cats. Virginia has upcoming trips to South Carolina and Arizona planned for 2016.

### Justin Leerkamp – Raymond Township

- o Justin is involved with grain farming in Champaign County.
- o Area of greatest concern to agriculture – Environmental Concerns & Regulation
- o Interests & Activities – Travel

### CCFB: How did you become interested in agriculture?

Justin: I grew up on family farm, like most others, been in it since day 1.

### CCFB: Your area of greatest concern is Environmental Concerns & Regulation. Is there anything you would like to accomplish related to this concern while on the CCFB Board?

Justin: I don't really have any goals yet, but think the education of growers and retailers on this issue important. I don't think most realize how fast additional regulation is coming, and why following new guidelines from IFCA is so important.

CCFB: What other issues are facing agriculture that you would like to tackle while on the board?

Justin: Again, I'm taking a wait and see approach. There is more to this organization than one realizes as a general member.

CCFB: What excites you most about agriculture?

Justin: It is both sides of the fence so to speak, while Agriculture is constantly changing, core family farm values remain the same. It is an amazing balance to witness.

### CCFB: Why did you become involved with Farm Bureau?

Justin: To better my farm and my community.

### CCFB: On a personal level...you are interested in travel. What has been your most exciting vacation, any trips planned this year, or somewhere you are dying to go someday?

Justin: Nothing more currently planned, but always on the lookout. Winter is usually a warm destination, Hawaii, Mexico, etc. Looking forward to the day my children are old enough for a European trip, so much history in England, France, Germany and many other countries. I'm lucky I have been a few places, but many left to see including within the US.





Kirk Builta  
Executive Director



Myla Munro  
Earth Partners Coordinator

[www.ccfbfoundation.com](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com)

*Like us on Facebook! [facebook.com/CCFBFoundation](https://facebook.com/CCFBFoundation)*

## McCoy Selected to Lead Foundation

By: Kirk Builta



After serving the board of directors for nearly four years, Brian McCoy has taken the reigns as Chairman of the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation effective February 12, 2016.

McCoy, will lead the 16 member volunteer board of directors which guides the work of the agricultural not-for-profit. McCoy takes over the President’s chair from retiring board member Brian Stark who has held the position since 2013. Brian McCoy is from Savoy and is the manager of Birkey’s in Urbana.

Elected to serve the Foundation Board as Vice President is Jim Goss of Mahomet. Goss is the Director of Farm Management with the Atkins Group and has previously served the board of directors in various capacities, including as president. Vann Parkin was re-elected to serve in the capacity of Treasurer. Parkin of Mahomet, is the Agency Manager of COUNTRY Financial. As treasurer, Parkin also serves as chairman of the Foundation’s Investment Committee.

Serving the CCFB Foundation Board as Secretary is Mike Mazzocco Ph.D. of Champaign. Mazzocco is an Advisor with Verdant Partners in Champaign. Mazzocco has been highly involved in the Foundations’ Scholarship program throughout his term on the board of directors.

As the Foundation board of directors re-organizes they also welcome three new members. Jason Bartell of Bartell Powell LLP, Cory Mitchell of Farm Credit Illinois and Adam Watson of Watson and Sons Farms joined the board of directors in February and look forward to lending their voice to the foundation’s mission.

### 2016 Earth Partners WDWS Newstalk Radio Coffee Shop Tour Fundraiser

**\*Tuesday, March 15 – 12pm at El Toro #2, Champaign\***  
**Hosts: Nancy Strunk (778-3010) and Sara Tondini (493-2732)**  
**Auctioneer: Reid Thompson**  
**-NEW DAY AND LOCATION!!**

**Tuesday, March 22– 12pm at Dewey Community Church, Dewey**  
**Hosts: Bea Motzer & Jacob and Ryann Kesler (898-1360)**  
**Auctioneer: Jerry Wallace**

**Wednesday, March 23 – 12pm at J.T. Walkers, Mahomet**  
**Host: Chris Karr (369-8751)**  
**Auctioneer: Andy Busch**

**Thursday, March 24 – 12pm at Philo Tavern, Philo**  
**Host: Dick Miller (493-6221)**  
**Auctioneer: Dennis Riggs**

**Friday, March 20 – 12pm at Stagecoach Steakhouse, Gifford**  
**Host: Eric Suits (202-4949)**  
**Auctioneer: Jim Hannagan**

### 2016 Earth Partners Coffee Shop Tour!

**The Earth Partners’ Coffee Shop Fundraiser is just around the corner and in order to have another record breaking year, we need your help! Your donation helps to share our message and educate students, teachers and the community of the importance of agriculture and the environment in their lives through classroom presentations, workshops and informational materials.**

**Contact your area chairman to register your donation, then come have lunch on us! WDWS radio personality, Dave Gentry will announce all the community contributions on air the following day. Thank you for helping to keep agricultural literacy efforts a priority in Champaign County! If you have questions, call Myla Munro at 352-5235 or [myla@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:myla@ccfarmbureau.com)**

### Lost and Found

Foundation Looks to Reconnect with Alumni

As the CCFB Foundation prepares to celebrate our 30th anniversary, we hope to reconnect with over 350 past alumni of our scholarship program. Over the years many changes can affect our connections to our community; through marriages last names change and through career advancements some have left Champaign County to impact communities all over the globe. We’re proud of all of our alumni and are anxious to reconnect.

Below is a partial list of alumni with whom we have lost touch. If you know any of these past Farm Bureau Scholars please feel free to send us their contact information, or encourage them to do so. Addresses can be sent to the CCFB Foundation via email at [kirk@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:kirk@ccfarmbureau.com) or by calling the CCFB office at 217-352-5235. We appreciate your support in helping us to reconnect with our growing alumni base! Please watch the next edition of Champaign County Farm Bureau News for additional recipients.

Hunter Adams	2011, 2013-2014
Lori Aden	1987-1988
John Arbuckle	1994-1995
Nicholas Barnes	2015
Lauren Bates	2002-2005
Jenna Beason	2000
Brandon Benefield	2004-2005
Janice Berbaum	1991, 1993-1995
Matt Berg	1988
Christopher Berry	2006-2007
Justin Berry	2009-2011
D Bidner	1996
Chantel Billman	2007
Brody Block	2009-2010

Scott Block	1987
George Bozdech	2007-2010
Cyndy Brock	1988
Jodie Brooks (Huls)	2000, 2003
Melinda Busboom	1997-1998
Jacob Cain	2002-2003
Jacob Calhoun	2003-2005
Lianne Carr	2002-2005
Jarai Carter	2011-2014
Jeff Castor	1993
Kelsey Choquette	2011
Nicole Choquette	2014
Blake Colclasure	2008-2011
Stephanie Cordier	1999-2000
Seth Coulter	1999
Amy Craig	1989
Ryan Craig	1993-1996
Jonathan Daly	1996-1997
Elizabeth Davis	2009
Dustin Dixon	1998
Dale Donoho	2011, 2014
Kurtis Downs	1995-1996, 1998
Kenneth Downs	1993-1994
Justin Dunlap	2006
Jeff Ehrhardt	1996-1998
Troy Eichelberger	1989
Kolin Erb	1991-1995
Georgia Fairfield	2001
Bryan Fink	2011
Laura Franks	2005-2006
Megan Fredericks	2006-2007
Jamie Gerdes	1994, 1996
Will Goodman	1987
Judy Goodmann	1991, 1993-1994
Richard Haines	2008
Kyle Haines	2009-2011
Jordan Hedge	2010-2011
Beth Heiser	1986-1987
Eric Heiser	2011-2014
Christie Herron	1990, 1992
Deanne Hesterberg	1992-1993
Heidi Hilgendorf	2007-2009
Mindy Howe	2002
Julie Huls	1996
Ryan Johnson	1994
Christy Justus	1998
Allison Keever	2008-2011
Brian Keith	2006-2008
Timothy Klein	1999





**MARK THORNSBROUGH,**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

## Spring N Management

By: Howard Brown

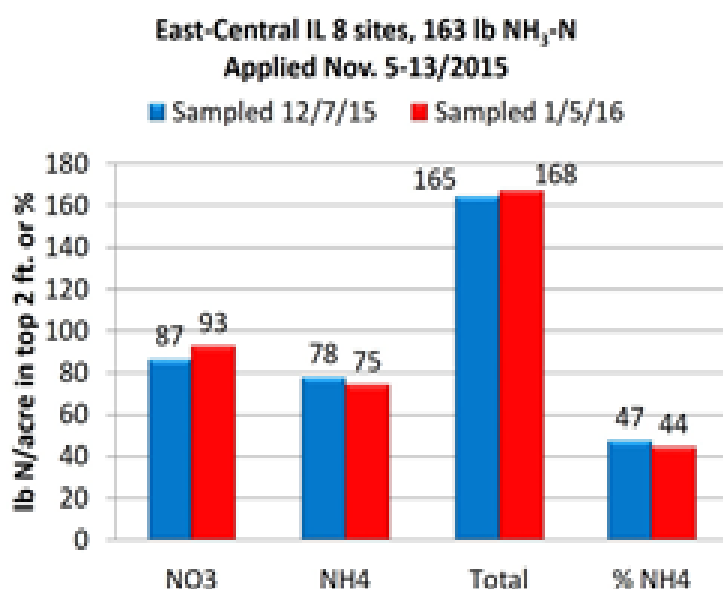
There is good and not-so-good news when it comes to nitrogen management for the 2016 corn crop. The good news is that nearly every farmer delayed fall N applications until the soil temperature reached the critical 50°F at a 4-inch depth and most protected their N investment with N-Serve. Better N management was a focus of producers, producer organizations and ag business associations and the emphasis on nutrient stewardship paid off with a strong compliance. Unfortunately, the warm soil temperatures and heavy rains in December may have compromised even our best stewardship efforts. The current status of fall-applied nitrogen (N), whether the output from predictive N models, or data received from soil samples collected in December-January, suggests some of the applied N has been lost or there is a heightened risk of N loss. Models, such as N-Advisor (FieldView Pro) have predicted N loss due to leaching. Results from soil samples collected and evaluated for nitrate and ammonium-N (N-WATCH) suggests the N is still present, but approximately 50% is in form (nitrate-N) that can be easily lost with expected spring rain events (Figure 1). Regardless whether a loss was predicted by a weather-based model, or the N remains but is in a form vulnerable to loss with rain events, there is a heightened concern about N management for the 2016 corn crop. Here are some tools to consider when evaluating how to improve N management within your farming enterprise this cropping season and beyond.

1. Track Plant-Available N with N-WATCH. A new tool, now in a third year of testing, provides producers a way to inventory and track Plant-Available N (PAN) over time at a point in a field. It provides a way to learn more about the behavior of soil N. It is not a recommendation system. It currently does not provide information to improve the chance of success with variable rate N applications. What N-WATCH does provide is a management tool (point in a field) that provides some information to consider when making the tough decisions of whether the N is still there (too much or too little), what form is it in, will it be enough, and is there any residual at harvest-time to capture with a cover crop. To participate in N-WATCH simply contact your local FS Crop Specialist and let them know you want to learn more about the tool and associated costs of participation. N-WATCH was used in over 1040 fields from Western Iowa to Southern Ontario, Canada in 2015.

2. Use an N rate study to learn how much N was needed to optimize yield. Using a rate controller on the N application equipment, along with GPS referenced yield data at harvest-time (and some creative mastery of software technology), an N Rate Study can provide a producer the optimum yield of a corn crop and the pounds of N needed to optimize the yield in any field. It is based upon a protocol established by Dr. Emerson Nafziger at the University of Illinois that has been utilized by over 300 farmers in Illinois over the past 10 years. Placing a N Rate Study in just one field will provide a higher level of appreciation for just how much N is needed with a specific producer's soil association and farming practices (tillage, N rate used, rotation, etc.). There is very little effort required on the part of the producer. The only cost associated with the study is the reduced yield that may be experienced with the reduced N Rate strips. Up until this growing season, the expense of reduced N rate strips was covered by available programs (Nutrient Research and Education Council or NREC). Additional programs may be offered again in 2016. Visit with your local FS Crop Specialist or contact the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association (IFCA) for availability of such programs.

3. Test-Drive N Management Models. The newest N management tools to arrive at the farm gate would be those that claim to model and predict the behavior of soil N, based upon local climatic conditions, soil properties and farming practices. N-Advisor is one such tool provided as a part of Field View Pro by Climate Corporation. Climate Corporation has invested a significant amount of time and money to refine their N model over the past year, making several improvements. Whether or not these tools deliver a consistent value will be up to the producer to decide. Visit with your FS Crop Specialist about "test driving" N-Advisor within FieldView Pro.

Figure 1. Plant-Available N Detected in Upper 2 Ft. of Soil Profile Between December 7, 2015 and January 7, 2016.



Source: Dan Schaefer, Director of Nutrient Utilization, IFCA; Dr. Emerson Nafziger, Professor, Crop Sciences, University of Illinois

## BEST PRACTICES

FS firmly believes that nutrient management isn't about reducing nutrients in the ground. It is about the 4Rs

• Using the Right nutrient source

• Applied at the Right rate in the Right place at the Right time.

Which is why FS continues to be at the forefront of developing nutrient management best practices. The 4Rs philosophy is a guideline farmers can follow when making fertility decisions. Our experts, together with fertility agronomists such as Dr. Howard Brown of GROWMARK, have worked with local, state and national agencies and regulators to develop best farming practices that are grounded in the 4Rs. When nutrients are applied according to 4R principles, crops have a better opportunity of using all the needed nutrients and producing a healthy, abundant crop. And when applied nutrients are fully utilized, none or very little, remains in the top soil profile, where they could be lost to temperature or water runoff. Take the next step in improving nutrient use by your crop. Contact Illini FS to learn more about incorporating best nutrient practices into your operation. For additional information, visit these sites:

- Illinois Council on Best Management Practices
- 4R Nutrient Stewardship
- Iowa State Nutrient Strategy
- Wisconsin Nutrient Management & 590 Guidelines
- Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy

Reduction Strategy



## GROWMARK Introduces Sustainability Initiative

GROWMARK is launching a new sustainability initiative called Endure that will reinforce the company's commitment to sustainability. The program is a System-wide effort to ensure continued profitability for the company, owners, and customers, while developing programs that help the environment and greater good. "In the GROWMARK System, we believe it is our responsibility to ensure our earth and industry perform sustainably," said GROWMARK Chief Executive Officer Jim Spradlin. "We go to great lengths to apply business ethics, invest in communities, and engage our employees in practices that enhance the profitability and sustainability of agriculture," he added.

Each area of the GROWMARK System will launch programs over the coming weeks, months, and years. The initiatives from Agronomy, Energy, Facility Planning, Grain, Logistics, Talent Management, Young Producers, and The GROWMARK Foundation will centralize activities and focus to ensure the ability to endure over time. Information on Endure activities will be communicated when available.



Did anyone get to take a spin in the FS Corn Car at the Midwest Ag Expo?

## REMINDER!!!

The crop insurance deadline is right around the corner, March 15, 2016! It is time for you to contact Matt Hoose, Illini FS Certified Crop Insurance Specialist.

April 28th is the deadline to update your APH database history! If you would like to discuss your coverage options contact Matt Hoose at 217-621-6983 or mhoose@illinifs.com.





*Vann Parkin*  
Country Financial  
Agency Manager



## FINANCIAL

### AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

#### Americans Love their Pets...But not the Costs that Come With Them

It's important to plan for unexpected costs before bringing home a new cat or dog

Americans love their pets – so much that nearly eight out of 10 (78 percent) cat and/or dog owners view them as family members. However, our four-legged companions also require love from our wallets, according to the latest COUNTRY Financial Security Index. Over a pet's lifetime, Americans may invest thousands of dollars in animal care. In fact, forty-three percent of Americans say their dog or cat cost them more than anticipated. Nearly a third (30 percent) of owners spent more than a thousand dollars on their pet in the last twelve months, and 10 percent say they've spent more than two-thousand dollars. "If you are looking to bring a pet into your household, planning should be a top priority. Knowing the costs associated with your pet and being prepared for unexpected and emergency costs will help diminish the financial burden of your new furry friend," said Joe Buhrmann, director of financial security for COUNTRY Financial.

#### Plan for the unexpected

Budgeting for the predictable costs of food, shelter and annual checkups is a starting point, but planning for unexpected costs like accidents and health issues can help ease pet owners' minds if health care decisions come down to finances. Nearly a quarter (23 percent) of owners would turn down a necessary health-related expense for their dog or cat if they couldn't comfortably afford it. Paying for a pet's medical emergency can create lasting financial consequences, leaving owners split on how to pay for expensive veterinary bills.

- Thirty-seven percent of pet owners would use their savings to pay for unexpected high veterinary costs and 33 percent would cut back their daily expenses as much as possible.
- Also, 30 percent would finance the bills with credit cards and 24 percent would put off a major purchase in order to pay the veterinary bills. "Bringing a pet into your family is a memorable experience as well as a long-term investment. I recommend researching the costs of the pet you plan to bring home, helping set a budget that factors their needs into your overall financial plan," adds Buhrmann.

There are simple steps pet owners can take to avoid deterring their financial plan due to the cost of welcoming a pet into their home.

1. Research the unique needs that different pets have. For example, certain breeds have health or grooming needs that can quickly become costly.
2. Budget before you bring home your new pet. Understand how much you will spend on food, toys, grooming and other needs and if it's an additional monthly expense you can take on.
3. Plan for emergency and unexpected costs by contributing a portion of your income to a savings account. These extra funds can be used for surprise bills that may happen over the course of your pet's life.



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## Start "Thinking Spring" at Prime Timers!

March 10 starting at 10 a.m.

Program:

Julie McClure

Orphan Treasure Box

Music: Ken Honegar



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:

April 14

May 12

June 9



## 2016 Agricultural Trade Talking Points

Why do we need agricultural trade?

International trade is essential to the health of U.S. agriculture.

□ U.S. agriculture is 2.5 times more reliant on trade than the overall economy.

□ 2015 agricultural exports were a record \$139.5 billion, and 2016 exports are expected to remain robust at \$138.5 billion.

□ U.S. farmers export about:

□ 56% of their soybeans

□ 50% of their wheat

□ 40% of their cotton

□ 26% of their pork

□ 20% of their corn

□ 14% of their dairy

□ 13% of their beef

□ 17% of their broiler chickens

Agriculture and ag exports are essential to the U.S. economy.

□ Every dollar of ag exports creates another \$1.47 in supporting activities such as

processing, packaging, shipping and financing of ag products.

□ The agri-food chain generates about 16% of the U.S. gross domestic product and employs 17% of the American workforce.

Future growth of agriculture depends on international markets.

□ The U.S. market has 322 million people; the world market has 7.3 billion people.

□ By 2025 population growth is +60 million for the U.S. and + 1.6 billion for the world

□ Only 5% of the world's population resides in the U.S. while 95% of global consumers

live outside the U.S. and have 75% of global purchasing power

Why support additional regional or global free trade agreements (FTAs)?

U.S. ag exports face trade-distorting:

□ domestic support that is 3 times greater than U.S. support

□ tariffs that are 4 times higher than U.S. tariffs and

□ export subsidies that are 30 times greater than U.S. agriculture receives.

□ The elimination of remaining global trade barriers via a WTO agree-

## Always Stay Current!

If you are ever unsure or curious when an event/meeting will be held, feel free to check out our website! We bring you updated information/times/dates/news on everything that might be of interest to you and your farm. [WWW.CCFARMBUREAU.COM](http://WWW.CCFARMBUREAU.COM)

What you will find:

-Upcoming trips and tours

-Electronic copy of the newsletter

-Current and Past Friday Leaders

- All calendar events

- Latest News

- A full listing of our board of directors

-Cancellations and updates

## 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](http://www.ccfarmbureau.com)

## CURRENT BENEFITS

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-FURNITURE WORLD OF

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## CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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# February Recap



Tom Costello, Instructor, U of I Department of Communications talks to the leadership academy about the fear of public speaking.



Mark Thornsborough, GM, Illini FS covers how they fit in the Farm Bureau picture



Brian Dewitt Running the GMO Trivia for the Leadership Academy Consumer Event at the Champaign Library



Kevin Knott mediates the GMO trivia event as Constance Herriott collects score cards



Habeb Habeb shares with the leadership academy his story of coming to America and how to utilize our skills as a leader



Craig Gundersen presents on food insecurity, transportation and the sustainability of the food system for our February Issue Series session



Kevin Knott



Luke Zwilling



Daniel Herriott



Constance Herriott



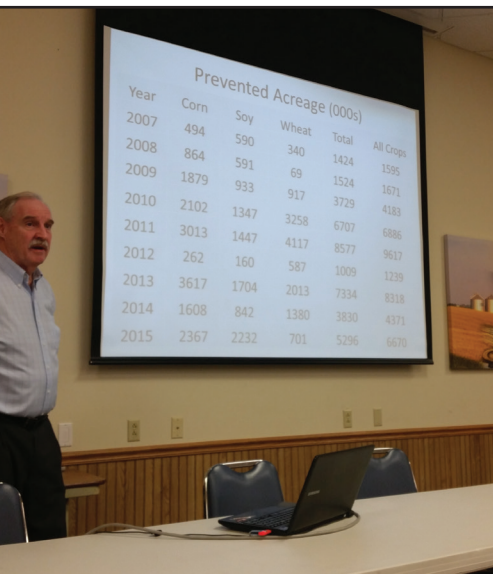
Chris Crider



Lynn Doran



Kevin Rund, ILFB, presents on CDL regulations, part of the On-the-Road Seminar.



Darrel Good talks to Lady Landowners about future crop predictions and trends



Gary Schnitkey shares the importance of Crop Insurance and how to decide



Jason Crider accepts his retiring director gift from the Foundation for all of his support and service



Senator Scott Bennett visits the legislative meeting to talk budget



The 2016 Equine Garage Sale had great weather, lots of items for sale and a good turn out. The sale helps equine enthusiasts purchase gently used tack and supplies for the hobby of riding and competition - thanks to all who came out!



Congressman John Shimkus stopped by the Women's Committee meeting to thank Farm Bureau for his endorsement and to share his continued vision.