



# Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 94, No. 5

801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821

May, 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.”

## Illinois Farm Bureau® & Affiliates Youth Conference



More than 350 FFA members, County Farm Bureau Managers, FFAadvisors from 74 Illinois counties attended the 2016 Illinois Farm Bureau® & Affiliates Youth Conference, April 4-5 at the Embassy Suites, East Peoria. **Pictured (left to right) are:** Cole Mohr, Kristen Kurtz, Tucker Richardson, Maddie Fugate, Illinois FFA President -Kade Hill, Madison Mitchell, Josie Runck.

"Build", the theme of this year's conference, offered FFA members in their junior year of high school, a unique opportunity for career and personal development. This year's attendees got the opportunity to visit with representatives about scholarships, internships, leadership programs, and career opportunities from community colleges, universities, agriculture commodity groups, and the Illinois Farm Bureau and it's the family of companies at an opportunity fair. The conference also provided a series of breakout sessions that outlined opportunities in agriculture and provided information about the Illinois Farm Bureau and its family of companies. Participants brought 1,532 cans of food to the confer-

ence for the Harvest For All program. The annual two-day conference is sponsored by Illinois Farm Bureau and its affiliated companies, which include GROWMARK, COUNTRY Financial, Prairie Farms Dairy and the IAA Credit Union. Please visit [www.youthed.org](http://www.youthed.org) for more information on the Illinois Farm Bureau & affiliated companies Youth Education program.

What the students say about their experience  
.....continue on page 3

### CCFB Equine Committee Presents: “Riding From the Ground Up”

Mark your calendar to join Jamie Gerdes Stierwalt and the CCFB Equine Committee on Saturday, June 18th from 9AM - 3PM at the Heinz Farm You will learn groundwork, “how to connect with your horse”, and mounted work. A light lunch will be provided to those who pre-register! **To Register:** Call the CCFB Office (217) 352-5235 or email david at: [david@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:david@ccfarmbureau.com)

**Deadline: June 10th**  
~Event will be held rain or shine~

**Cost:** \$30 for general participants \$15 for 4-H & Pony Club members (includes 12 years of age and younger)

## Leaders to Washington with Adam Watson

By: Lesley Gooding

Champaign County Farm Bureau Board Member, Adam Watson, was one of two dozen Illinois Farm Bureau members visiting Washington, D.C., as part of the Leaders to Washington trip. The trip, sponsored by the Illinois Farm Bureau, took place March 21 –March 23. Adam's first trip with the Leaders to Washington was a memorable one and one that he says “I wish everyone involved in agriculture could do! If you have the opportunity to go, set aside time in your schedule. It is worth it – 100%!”

What makes this trip so memorable and worthwhile? The group had an action packed agenda visiting with elected officials to discuss current agriculture issues. Arriving around noon on Monday, March 21, the group was in its first meeting by 1:30 p.m. and stayed on the go until they finished up with a 2:30 meeting on Wednesday. Over the course of three days, the two dozen IFB members, accompanied by IFB staffers, Ryan Whitehouse and Adam Neilsen, met with legislators and their staffers and the staff of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees and the USDA.

Adam Watson thought the most influential visit of the three day stint was with the staff of Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Springfield. The visit occurred right after Senator Durbin made some controversial statements on a Bloomington, IL, radio station about glyphosate and GMO labeling. The IFB delegation expressed their concern and one member of the delegation invited Senator Durbin to her farm to see things first hand. Adam says he “Realized his voice was being heard! I thought Senator Durbin's staff really paid attention to what we said.”

TPP, Trans Pacific Partnership, was a big talking point in meetings too. Adam says the common theme if there was opposition to TPP was not directed at agriculture, but rather other issues with things such as labor, Unions, etc. Adam was impressed that “if the legislator is against something they will flat out tell you. If they are against you, they want you to explain to them why you want them to be for it AND they listen to you! I was also amazed at the involvement of the staffers. They are at the meetings, doing research, writing bills, reporting to the Congressman or Representative. It is the staffer's job to report back to the Congressman or Representative and let them know where their constituents stand on the issues.”

One of Adam's favorite visits was to the Japanese Embassy. “We were sitting in a large, very nice, conference room discussing agriculture and you realize agriculture is a very powerful, worldwide deal. We were talking to people influencing agriculture in Japan and we are from Illinois. It was very neat to experience this!”

The group was also able to meet with AFBF and had a very good briefing on various topics including big data and GMO's. Updates were given to the group by USDA, FSA, and RMA.

The Leaders to Washington did get to experience a behind the scenes tour of the Capitol Building U.S. Representative John Shimkus rolled out the red carpet and greeted the group on the steps of the Capitol Building before leading them through the tour. The group was able to visit places in the building not seen by the usual visitor. “Representative Shimkus knew his history. This tour was very neat!”

In addition to the Capitol Building Tour, the group did enjoy cool restaurants at night after a hard day's work. The second evening in Washington the group was led on a night tour of the monuments including the World War II Memorial, Washington Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, and the Vietnam Memorial. Adam had seen the monuments during the day before, but said seeing them at night was “totally different and beautiful. We also got lucky and were able to see the cherry blossoms in full bloom!”



Behind the Scenes Tour of the Capitol Building - Adam Watson and U.S. Representative John Shimkus standing on the balcony of the Speaker of the House's office balcony over-

Continue Leaders to Washington.....pg 2



VibraTrim VT202 whole body vibration portable machine for exercising and toning, bone density, circulation, stress, balance, and much more. See [www.vibra-trim.net](http://www.vibra-trim.net) for picture and additional information. Excellent condition. \$750. Call 217-417-4616



Sale! Sale! Sale! Canon AE-1 plus 50mm lens, 28mm lens, and 52mm lens. Make an offer, email [david@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:david@ccfarmbureau.com)! Shipping not an option, must pick up at CCFB Office.



Above: University of Illinois CFB members with Congressman Rodney Davis. On Monday, April 25th, Congressman Rodney Davis came to Champaign to have a discussion with youth in agriculture. Fisher FFA, Unity FFA, the Parkland College Ag Business class and CCFB members gathered at the Pear Tree Estate to hear Congressman Davis. Davis explained to the attendees the importance of keeping a great relationship with your legislators and being involved locally.

## “Check Your Calendar!” May - 2016

10-11	Defensive Driving	8 AM
12	Prime Timers	10AM
TBD	Premier Ladies Marketing	TBD
29	ALOYTT - Sidney Dairy Barn (Social)	6:30PM

*\*Note: Most committees do not meet during May due to planting season. Please e-mail your committee chair or call 352-5235 if in doubt.*

## June - 2016

2	Young Ag Leaders	6:30 PM
4	Countryside 10k Witt Park, Sydney	8 AM
6	Marketing Club	6:30 PM
11	Prime Timers	10 AM
11	<b>Follow the Farmstead</b>	<b>9 AM</b>
13	Women’s Committee	9:30 AM
14	Legislative Committee	7:30 AM
14	Premier Ladies Marketing	9 AM
16	Full Board	6:30 PM
18	<b>RIDING FROM THE GROUND UP</b>	<b>9-3 PM</b>

## April Recap

President Chris Murray



April provided great opportunities for Champaign County Farm Bureau members. The month started with the Farm Bureau and Affiliates Youth Conference in Peoria, offered to FFA members who completed FFA Acquaintance Day provided by the Young Ag Leaders. At the conference, students were enabled to lead and learn to strengthen themselves within their chapters experiencing career and personal development. Governmental Affairs Conference this year was later than usual, due to legislators not being in session until April. Governmental Affairs Conference offered new insight on local government and its importance and featured other counties and what they are doing to implement change while facing challenges in agriculture. Women’s Committee once again held their annual Spring Fling where ladies were able to learn more about spring related floral arrangements, how to decorate their homes for spring and how to save space and eliminate clutter. We were able to close out the

Leaders to Washington continued.....

Adam also noted that the group woke up Tuesday morning to the world news of the terrorist attack in Brussels. News outlets were reporting heightened security on Washington’s public transportation system because of the attacks, but the group didn’t notice any unusual changes. Adam says it was just strange to “experience it and worry about it because I usually don’t have to think about those things (heightened security measures) at home.” Embarking on a trip and not knowing anyone at the beginning turned out to be a great opportunity for Adam. “I met really neat Illinois Farm Bureau Members, everyone from a dairy farmer to a 35 acre farm to market city farmer to a grain farmer! I wish everyone involved in agriculture could take this trip!” One final remark from Adam, “We asked staffers and legislators if our Calls to Action work and they all said yes! They can tell when there is a big issue and Illinois Farm Bureau has issued a Call to Action because their phones blow up!”

month with a great run in the field that allowed most farmers to plant their entire corn crop for the 2016 growing year. Congressman Rodney Davis came to speak to local youth in agriculture to connect them to government and why it is important to keep a close relationship with your legislators.



Spring Cleaning Sale. Nikon N50 Camera plus bag for sale. Any reasonable offers, email [david@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:david@ccfarmbureau.com)? Shipping not available, must pick up at CCFB office.

## Trying to Figure Out the Markets?

**June 6th - 6:30PM**  
**CCFB Auditorium**  
**Curt Kimmel - Bates Commodities**

Curt returned to Bates Commodities in 2001 after spending 13 years with Grain Field Futures, Zwicker Consulting and founding the Grain Field Report. Curt continues to be the author of the Grain Field Report, which offers marketing advice to grain and livestock producers across the Midwest. In 1982 Curt started in the brokerage business working for Paul Bates in the Heinold Commodities office in Normal, Illinois. Curt was raised on a grain and livestock farm near Carlock, Illinois and received a B.S. in Agriculture Business and a B.S. in Agriculture Production from Illinois State University. Curt stays active in the community and the Agriculture industry by serving on numerous advisory boards. Curt works one on one with producers, traders and agriculture companies to develop risk management strategies and trading plans. Curt can be heard regularly on various radio stations and seen at many marketing meetings across the Midwest.



“The experiences I was able to achieve while attending the 2016 Illinois Farm Bureau & Affiliates Youth Conference will last me a lifetime. Whether it was the amazing speakers, the wonderful FFA members that surrounded me, the spectacular food, or even the sessions that really made you dig deep inside yourself, it was a memorable experience and will be one of my favorites throughout my three years in this organization. I will recommend this conference to next year's juniors just so they have the chance to learn how to have social media etiquette, how to respect their local businesses, how to be a better you, how to use the little time given to you to make a big impact in the world, and how to make best friends that will last a lifetime. I would like to personally thank David and Brad for dealing with us four girls and making the trip so much fun. Thank you to the Champaign County Farm Bureau for making it possible for FFA members and students like me to have the opportunity to be able to attend this conference and for their various supports that have helped me throughout the year.”

~**Josie Runck**  
**St. Joseph/Ogden FFA**

“I had learned some skills such as how to give a thirty second speech if I am ever in a position where I need to use it. Also it helped me meet new people that I never have met before from different parts of Illinois. Some of the towns that they were from I knew before I met them and others I haven’t heard of till after meeting some of the people. So I am happy to have met them and making it even better experience and one of which I will recommend to younger members. The conference itself taught me leadership skills and how to not judge others before I have talked to them and got to learn who they are. Also to take life by the horns you could say meaning to take up different opportunities to better myself and others and to try and live life to the fullest. Take every opportunity I have been given to help others and not just myself. So overall this was a good experience for me and I would be happy to do this again.”

~ **Tucker Richardson**  
**Heritage FFA**



**Spring Cleaning Fun!**  
Camera for sale.  
Koday EasyShare Z710 with bag.  
Reasonable Offer

“At the beginning of April I had the opportunity to attend the Farm Bureau Youth Conference. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to several motivational speakers including Matt Rush and Keith Patterson. My favorite speaker was Matt Rush as he spoke about the importance of “getting over yourself” so you can better help your team. I learned from him that in order to succeed, you have to do things that will help the team succeed, and not worrying about yourself. Along with attending the speaker’s seminars, I also got to meet new people from other FFA Chapters and participate in fun activities such as team building games with the Illinois State FFA Officers and attending a dance. While I was at the conference I also got to meet with several colleges and learn about their agriculture programs. Overall, I had a great time at the conference!”

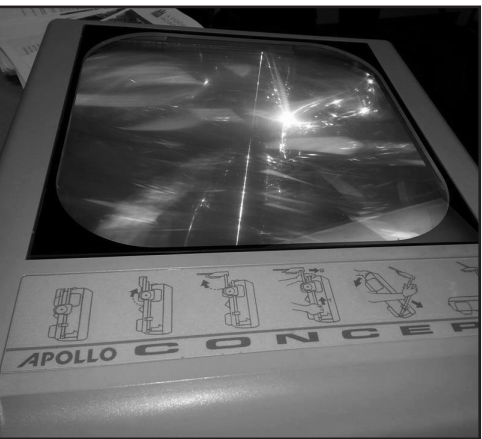
~**Madison Mitchell**  
**Mahomet/Seymour FFA**



"Vintage" Camera for sale. Pentax Auto Focus IQZoom 80 E. Make an offer by emailing david@ccfarm-bureau.com? Shipping not available. Must pick up at CCFB office.

*“I had a great time at the Illinois Farm Bureau Conference. I met a lot of knew people that I know I will be friends with for a long time. I thought the guest speaker was very inspirational! He talked about do not live in your parents shadow and make your own story. Also how the FFA is way bigger and more important than what people really think it is. Over all I thought it was great and I would love to go back.”*

~**Cole Mohr**  
**Heritage FFA**



CCFB is doing some spring cleaning! Apollo Concept Overhead projector for sale. Any reasonable offers?

A big congratulations to Dave Schirer and Erin Dirks on winning the two half sides of beef in the Harvest for All raffle. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and supported the Harvest for All Foodbank program. Huge thank you to Andy & Katy Allen of AKA Livestock and Ron Allen of Allen Meats for their generous donations.

# At the Farm Gate

May 2016  
By *Joanie Stiers*  
**Farm moms bond family, farm, community**

Moms may represent the glue that holds the family together. Yet, their adhering nature equally bonds the family farm and rural communities, too.

Farm women make farms more productive, conscience and safe. They mold communities into better places to live. And for generations, they have toiled to raise good citizens as much as good corn. Families own 97 percent of Illinois farms, where wives, moms and daughters likely play substantial roles. This Mother’s Day, those farm women deserve a hearty hug from agriculture.

Narratives float the internet about the “ninth day,” when God made a farm wife to help the farmer He created on the eighth one. The poems praise farm women who live for “we” not “me,” with service to farm, family and community, like my farm mom. She makes marketing decisions, keeps the books, pays the bills and retrieves machinery repair parts. Yet, she takes time to host a sleepover with the grand-kids and guarantees a hot meal to the field every harvest night. She reminds the guys to quit in time to clean up for a family party and commits to co-chair the kitchen for a church turkey supper that serves half the town.

My farm mom can talk crop insurance strategy as well as she bakes a batch of signature cookies for a funeral luncheon. She manages the farm’s finances, keeps up on agriculture news and transports aging parents to appointments. She accepts Jill-of-all-trades duties with nothing more selfish than a secret sigh on a hectic day. By the end of it, she stays awake

late near the cell phone when one of her guys – husband, son or employees – work the fields into the night.

Even with the uniqueness of Illinois’ farms and women themselves, most farm women understand what it means to go with the farm flow. They may tolerate mud at the back door, mow acres of grass between rains and shuttle kids. They often exhibit the strength to heave bales and scoop out bins, as well as manage family conflict and deal with loss, whether barn fire or newborn calf. Many manage an off-farm job, too, and those with young kids realize that the busy seasons bring extra parenting responsibilities, their contributions to the cause.

Still, some farm women may pilot the combine, operate the auger cart and manage calving. Many can read rainy satellite radars with more accuracy than Weather.com’s hourly forecast. They often know their wrenches and how to use them, budget for farm needs before home luxuries, and routinely preach “safety first” for the love of it all.

The farm women in my life measure their success on the happiness of home, the health of the farm and the spirit of community around them. Mother’s Day or not, take today to recognize the farm women in your life. Then, thank God for His ninth day.

**About the author:** Joanie Stiers, a wife and mother of two farm kids, writes from home and works on her family’s multi-generational farm in West-Central Illinois.

## Champaign County Farm Bureau Tractor Drive & Family Picnic

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**Parkland Community College, Champaign IL**

**Saturday,  
August 27, 2016**

Schedule of Events

**10 a.m.** Tractor Drive leaves Champaign County Fair Grounds

**11 a.m.** Tractors arrive at Parkland College

**11 a.m.—1 p.m.** Family Picnic at  
Tony Noel Center—Parkland College

**1 p.m.** Tractor Drive leaves picnic and travels to Champaign County  
Fair Grounds

FUN for the entire family! Tractors of all makes and models will travel to Parkland College and stop for a family picnic. Tractors will be on display, lunch will be served, and there will be events for everyone to enjoy!

Tractors will travel on Bradley Avenue between the Champaign County Fairgrounds and Parkland College.

Tractor Drive Registration

**\$20 by August 17/\$25 after Deadline**

**Includes CCFB Commemorative Microfiber Towel/1 Lunch Ticket**

**Family Picnic Lunch  
Tickets**

Adults \$8  
Children 12 & under \$5

Advance purchase required  
by August 17, 2016

More info contact CCFB  
217-352-5235

**Champaign County Farm Bureau**

801 N. Country Fair Dr  
Champaign IL 61821  
217-352-5235

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





**Kirk Bulta**  
Executive Director



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

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**Myla Munro**  
Earth Partners Coordinator

## Educating Youth about the Importance of Water

By Myla Munro



For 46 years, Earth Day has been celebrated on April 22 with the intent to inspire and motivate people to take better care of this planet. I challenge you to find someone who is a better caretaker for this land than the American farmer! Farmers are concerned about a myriad of environmental factors that includes one of our most important natural resources; water.

Nearly three-quarters of the Earth's surface is covered by water and without it, there would be no life on Earth. Water is truly essential for farmers to raise animals and crops. There is only so much available water on the planet and it's important that everyone uses it wisely. Through the use of improved agricultural technologies and common sense we can conserve water and practice good stewardship.

Throughout the month of April, Earth Partners helped educate students about the importance of water through our hands-on activities and lessons. Students brainstormed ways they could reduce water waste, learned vocabulary words such as: Condensation, Evaporation, Infiltration, Groundwater, Precipitation and Runoff. Using those new vocabulary words they worked as a group and completed a diagram of the Water Cycle. The lesson concluded with students creating a Water Cycle bracelet. The bracelet activity uses 10 beads to represent the paths that water takes through its various states of matter as it moves through the Earth's system of oceans, groundwater, rain, etc.

The lessons were concluded with a reminder to the students about how farmers are committed to a lifetime of protecting our natural resources, not just on Earth Day but every day!

## Earth Partners Highlights Illinois Agriculture Through Teacher Workshop

By Myla Munro

Each summer, Earth Partners offers a week-long teacher workshop designed to increase our local teacher's knowledge of agriculture and to help them incorporate agricultural education activities into existing classroom curriculum. This year's Summer Ag Institute (SAI) will be held from June 13-17, 2016 at Parkland College and will focus on integrating the Illinois mAGic Kit. The mAGic Kit assists teachers in bringing agriculture to the classroom through the "Multidisciplinary AGricultural Integrated Curriculum" or mAGic.

Resources found in the Illinois Kit is designed to bring math, science, social studies and language arts to life through the fun of agriculture curriculum. Activities and resources shared throughout the week can be integrated into current curriculum while satisfying the goals of Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards through hands-on activities exploring agriculture and the environment.

This summer's week-long workshop will be full of fun and engaging hands-on activities that teachers can take back and do with students in Champaign County classrooms. As part of the Summer Ag Institute, teach-

ers will hear from industry experts on topics such as nutrient stewardship, the economic impact of agricultural commodities and exploration of plant pollinators. Teachers will also have the opportunity to visit Allerton Park to learn about Illinois' soil structure and participate in a local foods luncheon, farm tour at Prairie Fruits Farm!

As an added bonus, teachers can participate in this year's Summer Ag Institute for FREE should they wish to become an Earth Partner's Ag Champion - an Earth Partners contact within their school district or teaching circle. The Institute also offers teachers the opportunity to gain course credit towards their degree from Aurora University or Parkland College. Teachers may also choose to receive professional development hours via a partnership with Education for Employment #330. For more information regarding credits please contact Myla Munro at the CCFB Foundation.

For more information on the course or to request a registration packet, please call the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation Office or email Myla Munro, [myla@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:myla@ccfarmbureau.com).

**Saturday | June 4, 2016**  
**Witt Park | Sidney, IL**  
**10K & 5K**  
**8 A.M.**

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

### Earn Your Cowbell

Cowbell awards will be given to the top 2 male and female runners in the following age groups: under 15, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60+. The overall male and female

### Post Race

- Sidney Dairy Barn with ice cream sandwiches
- Fresh fruit and coffee
- Every participant is entered into a drawing for give-aways but you must be present at the pavilion to win!

### Why YOU should run

- This flat course will take you through beautiful farmland and is a short 15 minute drive from Champaign-Urbana
- Register by 6/2/16 to receive your ag swag bag that is filled with goodies!

### Event / Course

The Countryside 10K and 5K is organized by the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation. The CCFB Foundation provides educational opportunities that impact the agricultural community through scholarship programs and the Earth Partners Ag Literacy Programs.

The course will start and finish in Witt Park in Sidney, IL and will wind through the beautiful Champaign County countryside.

No dogs or baby strollers are allowed on the race course. Official race map can be found at: [www.ccfbfoundation.com](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com).

### Registration

Online and mail-in registration Race registration and packet pick-up at the Champaign County Farm Bureau (801 N. Country Fair Dr, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821) on Friday, June 5th from 2:30—6:00 p.m.

**Online Registration at:**  
**[www.ccfbfoundation.com](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com)**



**CCFB FOUNDATION**

**Make checks payable to CCFB Foundation & mail to: Countryside 10K & 5K - 801 N. Country Fair Dr, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821**  
**Registration forms and Online Registration available at**  
**[www.ccfbfoundation.com](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com)**

### 10K RUN

\_\_\_ \$25 by 6/2/16 with ag swag bag  
\_\_\_ \$30 after 6/2/16

### 5K RUN/WALK

\_\_\_ \$25 by 6/2/16 with ag swag bag  
\_\_\_ \$30 after 6/2/16

(Online registration closes on 6/2/16)

• • • • •  
• **NEW in 2016 - 5K Run/Walk** •  
• • • • •





**MARK THORNSBROUGH,  
GENERAL MANAGER**

## Taking some of the mystery out of N Management in 2016

By: Howard Brown

Nitrogen is an important input for corn production across the Midwest. It ranks as the 2nd greatest input cost and is the topic of interest when it comes to nutrient stewardship and the environment. Although research from our land-grant nutrient research specialists have provided us a much better understanding the dynamics of soil N, there remains a significant amount of mystery and guesswork surrounding N management decisions at the farm gate. Answers to the following questions may minimize some of the mystery and help with making better management decisions as we move into stand establishment and early growth.

### What is the status of fall-applied N?

N-WATCH sites from across Illinois suggest most of the N applied last fall still remains in the upper two feet of the soil profile. Lack of water movement in the soil profile since January is likely the reason most of the N still remains. The concern from now until the time of rapid plant uptake is N loss by denitrification (saturated soils over time) or leaching (movement with soil water). The amount and frequency of rain events between now and knee-high corn will determine the fate of what N-WATCH has currently detected. Another set of N-WATCH samples are scheduled to be collected soon after stand establishment.

### What is N-WATCH?

N-WATCH is a management tool that is designed to inventory and track Plant-Available N (PAN) at a point in a field over time. It provides a way for producers to watch the dynamics of Plant-Available N in the upper two feet of the soil profile from harvest to harvest. Contact your local Illini FS crop specialist to participate in N-WATCH or learn more about what it provides participants.

### What makes up Plant-Available N (PAN)?

Over 95% of the N found in soil is bound organically and is not available to the growing plant uptake. Of the remaining 5%, Plant-Available N represents extractable nitrate-N and ammonium-N in the upper two feet of the soil profile.

### What are the differences between the two forms of PAN?

Nitrate-N (NO<sub>3</sub>-N) is the most abundant form of PAN in the soil profile during the growing season. Nitrate-N exists as an anion in soil solution (has a negative charge... looking for something positive). Since our soils have a net negative charge (the surface can attract positive charges), the negatively charged nitrate-N is repelled from the soil surface, allowing it to move freely with soil water. If soil water moves through the profile and into lower depths or into subsurface field tile, does any unused nitrate-N. Nitrate-N has oxygen attached to the N. Certain soil microbes have the ability to take

some of the oxygen away from nitrate-N, leaving it an unstable gas that eventually escapes from the soil and into our atmosphere. Although most of this gas is N<sub>2</sub>, what 78% of the air we breathe contains, a small portion forms a potent global gas, nitrous oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). Nitrous oxide is 200 to 300 times more potent as a global warming gas than carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Keeping nitrate-N from being lost from soil as a gas makes both economic and environmental sense. Ammonium-N (NH<sub>4</sub>-N) exists as a positively-charged ion in soil solution. Unlike nitrate-N, the positive charge allows it to be attracted to the soil's surface, resisting movement with soil water. Ammonium-N does not have any oxygen attached and cannot be converted to a gas by any soil microorganism. The positive charge of ammonium-N and the lack of attached oxygen (reduced form) are the reasons ammonium-N is referred to as "Stable N". Enhancements are added to ammonium-containing N fertilizers to slow the conversion of ammonium to nitrate-N and keep it in this stable form. Note: N-WATCH results reported the middle of April showed 30 to 40% of the PAN detected was still in the ammonium-N form.

### Is there a name for the process of microbial conversion of ammonium to nitrate-N.?

Nitrification is the process of microbial conversion of ammonium-N to nitrate-N. It is a two-step process. Nitrosomonas bacteria convert ammonium-N to nitrite-N. The soil bacteria, Nitrobacter, quickly converts nitrite-N to nitrate-N. This 2-step process provides energy to the working microbes and generates a little soil acidity. All N-containing fertilizers contribute to soil acidity.

### Is there a name for the process of gaseous loss of N in saturated soil?

Denitrification describes the process of microbial conversion of nitrate-N to unstable gaseous forms in saturated (or oxygen deprived) soils. Denitrification only involves nitrate-N and occurs within soils that have an active microbial population. Although cold soils containing a significant amount of nitrate-N are saturated, denitrification may be limited due to the lack of microbial activity. Note: Loss of nitrate-N can still occur in saturated cold soils due to leaching if water can find an avenue for movement (subsurface tile).

### How long does applied N exist as ammonium-N?

It takes approximate 7 to 14 days for soil microorganisms to convert ammonium (originating from UAN, urea, or ammonium sulfate) to nitrate-N under ideal soil conditions (warm and moist). It requires an additional 7 to 10 days to convert ammonium-N from anhydrous ammonia to nitrate-N. Soil microorganisms are not very active in cold (below 32° F) or extremely dry soils.

### Why not try to keep all soil N as

## GROWMARK Introduces Sustainability

GROWMARK, the parent company of Illini FS Farmtown, has launched a new system-wide initiative called Endure that will reinforce the company's commitment to sustainability. "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.

One aspect of the new initiative is ENDURE Advocates for GROWMARK FS crop specialists. "What we're trying to do with this advocate program is recognize and award those crop specialists that are doing a good job promoting sustainable business practices," Milby explained.

Locally in Urbana Illinois, a



John Deere 3520 tractor, driven by Ray Griest, utilizing a no-till seeder on loan from Champaign County Soil & Water!

team from FS Farmtown store with manager Paula Blakley, planted an acre of the Endure Pollinator Seed. On Tuesday, April 19th. The location is the Art Studio, 1101 N. High Cross Rd. on the west side of street. Bruce Stickers from CCSW and Ray Greist assisted with the seed installation.

... Promoting pollinator health is also part of the ENDURE initiative, which has already been very successful, and they are working on other ways the concept of enduring sustainability will be promoted within the GROWMARK FS system and beyond.

Learn more about GROWMARK's sustainability initiative in this interview: (Link is here) <http://precision.agwired.com/2016/01/27/growmark-introduces-sustainability-initiative/>

For more information contact Farmtown at 217-384-8303



loading the pollinator seed mix into the small seed bin box

### ammonium-N?

The amount of N needed for plant growth is greater than any other essential nutrient. Nitrate-N moves into the plant roots with soil water since it is not attracted to the soil surface. The N requirement of the plant are more easily satisfied with nitrate-N entering with soil water. This free movement with soil water is called mass flow. If all soil N was ammonium-N, movement into the plant would be limited, since ammonium-N does not move freely with soil water. As a result, plants would likely express N deficiency.

### What form of N fertilizer do we apply?

All commercially available N fertilizers either contain ammonium-N or are eventually converted to ammonium-N in the soil. Nearly all of the ammonium-N found in the upper 2 feet of the soil profile is converted to nitrate-N over a relatively short period of time. Exceptions include N sources that include enhancements that modify the behavior of ammonium-N (N-Serve or Instinct II) or polymer-coated urea (ESN) that provides a physical barrier that delays conversion to nitrate-N.

### When should Side-dress N start?

Post-emerge applications of N can start as soon as the planter leaves

the field with guidance systems and auto-steer. A common start-time is when the young plants have 3 fully extended leaves. Unless the weather can be predicted with a high level of accuracy, sooner rather than later applications of post-emerge N is suggested. Delaying N applications to later stages of vegetative growth (pre-tassel) may result in further delayed application due to a late-season rain or a lack of plant utilization due to dry weather following application (N must move into the plant with soil water). Visit with your local FS Crop Specialist for what N sources are available and what options are available to promote N utilization and minimize loss.

### Practice safety first.

Make time for periodic breaks to plan your work. Be aware of those young farmers that like to be with you in the field. Very few hasty decisions or short cuts have paid-off especially when working with large equipment or products that need special handling, such as anhydrous ammonia. Utilize the 4Rs of nutrient management to Minimize environmental impact by Optimizing harvest yield and Maximizing nutrient utilization. It is all about M.O.M.





**Vann Parkin**  
Country Financial  
Agency Manager



**FINANCIAL**

**AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT**



**Marcia Woolcott**  
Administrative Assistant  
Champaign Agency

## **SPRING - A FRESH START ON FINANCIAL SECURITY**

### **Americans admit their finances need polishing**

As spring sets in, many Americans will take time to organize closets, clean up cobwebs and dust in dark corners – but “spring cleaning” shouldn’t just be limited to your home. For about two thirds of Americans (67 percent) who confess their finances need cleaning, spring is also the time to take a fresh look at their personal finances, according to the latest COUNTRY Financial Security Index®.

This spring, COUNTRY Financial® found that the top personal finance projects for

Americans, in order, include:

- cleaning up credit card debt
- getting spending habits in check
- establishing a plan to build up emergency fund savings

“Spring can be the perfect time to clean out your closets, but it’s also an ideal time to consider organizing and refining your financial plan to set yourself up for success,” said Joe Buhrmann, manager of financial security at COUNTRY Financial. “Depending on your financial goals, there are a variety of simple steps you can take to make a difference.”

### **Millennials must master the basics**

Millennials say spending habits, student loan debt and credit card debt are the biggest financial pain points they need to address. Taking basic steps to clean up your finances – such as creating and maintaining a budget as well as keeping tabs on your credit score – can be simple moves to make during this season of growth. Currently, only 57 percent of millennials follow a budget, according to the survey, and one out of every three millennials has either never checked their credit report or does not know how to do so. For many in this generation, getting in the habit of tracking spending and monitoring debt can help overcome some of the most prominent financial hurdles. “One of the most important steps millennials can take is to create – and stick to – a household budget that will help them reach their future goals,” said Buhrmann. “No matter the amount of your assets, it’s important to monitor and protect what you have.” In the age of online banking and investing, it’s important to protect your financial information online as well. Despite being known for their tech savvy, nearly half (47 percent) of millennials admit to using the same or a similar password for their online financial accounts as they do on other internet sites, opening themselves up to hackers and identity theft.

### **Debt weighs heaviest on Generation X**

According to the COUNTRY Financial Security Index, just 10 percent of Gen Xers are debt

free, compared to the 18 percent of the general population and the 24 percent of those 65 and older who report carrying no debts. For middle-aged Americans, credit card debt becomes the biggest financial woe. Twenty-three percent of Gen Xers believe their credit card debt needs to be cleaned up, which is five percent higher than the general population. As a result of the focus on credit card debt, members of Generation X keep close tabs on their credit report. Americans aged 35-49 are the most likely to have checked their credit report within the last six months (51%).

### **Boomers and beyond: approaching and living in retirement**

As older Americans build their nest egg and pay down debts to prepare for retirement, financial priorities shift once again. However, even as baby boomers and the oldest Americans approach and live in retirement, just half (51 percent) of those over age 50 know exactly how much debt they owe.

Living on a budget is paramount during the final stretch before retirement and the transition to living on a fixed income for the rest of their lives. Even more surprising, as this group is focused on stretching savings and investments to last through their golden years, less than half of Americans, (42 percent) over age 50 have an established budget they follow every month. “In different stages of your financial life, there will be different priorities and pain points,” said Buhrmann. “Taking time this spring to adjust the weak spots in your financial plan can help right the course toward reaching your financial goals.”

The COUNTRY Financial Security Index® Since 2007, the COUNTRY Financial Security Index has measured Americans’ sentiments of their personal financial security. The Index also delves deeper into individual personal finance topics to better inform Americans about the issues impacting their finances. Survey data, videos and analysis are available at [www.countryfinancialsecurityblog.com](http://www.countryfinancialsecurityblog.com) and on Twitter at @hellocountry. The COUNTRY Financial Security Index was created by COUNTRY Financial and is compiled by GfK, an independent research firm. Surveys were conducted using GfK’s KnowledgePanel™, a national, probability-based panel designed to be representative of the general population and includes responses from approximately 1,000 U.S. adults for national surveys. The margin of sampling error for a survey based on this many interviews is approximately +/- 3 percentage points with a 95 percent level of confidence.

**[www.countryfinancial.com](http://www.countryfinancial.com)**



**Travis Heath**  
352-4555



**Keith Garrett**  
485-3010



**Jessie DeHaan**  
352-3466



**Stan Ochs**  
352-3296



**Terry Hill**  
469-9800



**Bret Kroencke**  
359-9391



**Nathan Hubbard**  
892-4479



**Jim Nelson**  
892-4479



**Chuck Rippey**  
586-5030



**Chris Greenwald**  
355-8675



**Dan Duitsman**  
469-2033



**John May**  
352-3341



**Aaron Wheeler**  
586-6170



**Steve Derry**  
352-2655



**Scott Jackson**  
359-9335



***Celebrate Spring with Prime Timers  
on May 12 starting at 10 a.m.***

**Program:**

**Julie Angel**

**“Mt St. Helens”**

**Music by: Bill Polson**



*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:**

*June 9*

*July 14*

*August 11*

**Illini FS Farmtown Special**

1509 E University Ave, Urbana, IL

As of 4/1/2016 Illini FS Farmtown is offering Champaign County Farm Bureau members 10% off re-tail sale of lawn and garden items. (excludes propane & kerosene) Stop by and get your landscaping and gardening supplies and start Saving. Farm Bureau membership must be presented and discounts apply at time of purchase only.

**June 20-26**

**The Best of Michigan  
featuring Mackinac Island**

We will depart from the Champaign County Farm Bureau at 6:30 a.m. and head for Machinac Island. You will arrive in Grand Junction, MI at Stoke's Homestead where you will enjoy lunch and a tour. Our next stop is New Era, MI and Country Dairy for a tour. Day #2 it's off to Acme, MI , home of the Music House Museum for a tour and then a stop in Charlevoix, MI and Castle Farms. Our final stop will be the wonderful, Mackinac Island, MI where you will enjoy a ferry ride over to the Island. During our stay at Mackinac Island we will enjoy a Carriage Tour of the Island and lunch at the Grand hotel. Other highlights of your trip include: tour the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, tour Brush Creek Mill, Frankenmuth where will have a step on guide giving us the highlights and the history of this area, pretzel rolling demonstrations, shopping at Bronner's Christmas Village, visit Fenton, MI and tour the heavenly Scent Herb Farm and Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village .  
**Trip includes :** Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Hotel Accommodations, all attractions and 13 meals  
**Cost per person:** Dbl.-\$1,540.00, Single.-\$2100.00, Triple-\$1325.00  
**Deadline: May 30 2016**

***RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP ONLINE!***

CCFB members can now go to [www.ccfarmbureau.com](http://www.ccfarmbureau.com) and click on MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL to pay their dues 24-hours-a-day! Please note that this is ONLY for “renewals.” If the membership is new, delinquent or a reinstating member, you'll need to contact the office to pay by credit or debit card.

***The CCFB Membership  
Benefit List!***

***All you have to do is  
SHOW YOUR  
FARM BUREAU  
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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)***

**BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- AG ELECTRIC
- AGRIBLE
- A & R ELECTRIC
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- ARROW AUTO GLASS
- BARBECK COMMUNICATIONS
- BARD OPTICAL
- BLOSSOM BASKET FLORIST
- C.A.R.'S AUTO DETAILING
- CHAMPAIGN CHRYSLER/DODGE/JEEP/RAM
- COLLETTE TRAVEL
- CONNECT HEARING
- 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 FS FARMTOWN/URBANA
- 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
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- REFINERY HEALTH CLUB
- ROSATI'S PIZZA & CATERING
- SAFELY FILED
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- TICKETSATWORK.COM
- WYLDEWOOD CELLARS
- ZA'S RESTAURANT

***\*BENEFITS SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
WITHOUT NOTICE\****



**New Member Benefit from AGRIBLE**

Meet Morning Farm Report . The best way to start your data. Morning Farm Report is produced by Agrible, an agriculture company based in Champaign, Illinois that specializes in big data to create predictive analytics tools. We provide innovative, easy-to-use products that growers can use to improve their production and efficiency with various features based on which AgriBundle they choose. Growers receive a daily email report that provides accurate weather, field conditions, and expert insight. For Champaign County Farm Bureau members only, we are offering a 50% discount\* off a 365 day subscription to the Tractor Time Daily AgriBundle, which features 4" in soil temperatures, soil conditions and weather forecasts all field-specific, Call the Farm Bureau to get the discount PROMO Code today!

**\*You may not use or combine the Promo Code  
with any other promotions unless specifically permitted by Agrible.**

**Take a Trip with CCFB**

August 2 & 3: A trip to St. Louis, MO; bus will leave at 7:30AM. First stop will be Busch Stadium for a tour. Then a stop will be made at Ballpark Village and have lunch on your own. You will go to Anheuser Busch Brewery for a tour and free samples. Dinner that night will be at Zia's on the Hill. Next day there will be a visit to the new Ag Display at the Science Building.  
**Fee Covers:**Trasportation, Hotel, all attractions and two meals  
**Deadline:** July 1st                      **Cost:**\$320

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY  
FARM BUREAU NEWS**

(USPS 099-840)

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**Concealed Carry  
Course**

**Upcoming Class**

**Must attend both days**

- Sunday, June 5, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Sunday, June 12, 8 a.m.-5p.m.

*16 people per class/deadline to  
register is day prior to class*

**Goose Creek offers CCFB**

**Members Special Discount Pricing!**

**\$175 per person**

**\$300 per married couple**

**[www.goosecreektraining.com](http://www.goosecreektraining.com)**

**Reservations and Questions**

**Contact: David at CCFB**

**Phone: 217-352-5235**

**Email: [david@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:david@ccfarmbureau.com)**

**Goose  
Creek  
Firearms  
Training,  
Inc.**



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU**  
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 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 Director -- Myla Munro  
Foundation Director -- Kirk Builta

**Contact us at (217) 352-5235  
[www.ccfarmbureau.com](http://www.ccfarmbureau.com)**



