

# Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 94, No. 7

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

July, 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 Citizen Coalition

Champaign County Farm Bureau and Champaign County Chamber of Commerce

By: David Fulton



Laura Weis, Champaign County Chamber of Commerce, and Chris Murray, Champaign County Farm Bureau, presented the coalition proposal on June 22nd at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium at a press conference composed of various media outlets in the county.

ing the administrator role and introducing an executive seat. The CCFB approached the chamber and posed the question “Should Champaign County adopt a new model?”

The coalition hopes that this will be on the 2018 ballot after obtaining 500 signatures, which they hope to double for security. This conversation started approximately one year ago, but within the last couple of months, both CCFB and the Chamber decided the 2018 election season was the best time to get this on a ballot. “It is time to empower voters”, said Weis. Being an elected official, they could feel the support from the whole county, rather than just the board. Weis made it clear that Champaign County voters need to be the decision makers, not the board. One comment made it clear that the coalition was not interested in giving power to the county board to create tax hikes without voting.

The title of the press conference “Citizen Coalition” embodies the vision given by the CCFB and Chamber. By electing a county executive it will spread the power amongst the voters, not led by a county administrator. Murray insured that this was a bipartisan effort and not a republican power play. “Bipartisan support will cause legitimate conversation and allow us to achieve together”.

It is important for “both sides of the aisle” to get along in a decision making process so that it is made a balanced decision. Both the Republican Party and Democratic Party have different values and priorities, but there is a lot of overlap too between both. Electing a county executive will be the instrument for positive change, said Weis.

### AG Summer Camp

*Thank you*

Champaign County Farm Bureau Staff thanks all volunteers who volunteered their time to help with Ag Summer Camp!!

### It was a great success

Interested in helping with our July 18-21 Ag Summer Camp? Call the office today!

## What is SWAT?

Illinois Farm Bureau has formed SWAT – “Strength with Advisory Teams” in an effort to provide more local input into the decisions of the total Farm Bureau membership. In June at the Local and State Government Sub-Committee Meeting of SWAT there was a lot of information related, discussed, voted on and some to be discussed in the future.

Just a few of the topics covered were – Ag Teacher Loan/Grant Program, which is designed to help retain Ag Teachers in our schools across Illinois. At this point the ideas will go to IFB legal department for finalized proposal.

Bona Heinsohn, Chair of the LGS SWAT Communications Sub – Committee was given direction from the committee to put together articles that will be timely for all members to consider. The committee wants feedback on the articles as to problem solving, whether the issue affects you along with your suggestions. Be watching for these articles.

Independent Map Amendment Update – There were 576,000 signatures gathered, which is two times the amount needed. The next step is to state the question in a manner in which it will receive approval to be on the ballot this fall.

Local Government Consolidation Update – This is an ongoing process receiving mixed reactions from government offices and residents within the districts and counties. A very interesting discussion and report, with more to follow.

The Effects of a Property Tax Freeze on Local Government – If you are interested in having a good program please contact Brenda Matherly, IFB Assistant Director of Local Government. She had a great Power Point presentation and has studied the effects of a Property Tax Freeze giving some very meaningful information. You may contact Brenda at BMatherly@ilfb.org or (309)826-7213. Any member of Illinois Farm Bureau can apply to be selected to serve on a SWAT team. This opportunity has provided opportunities for conversation among the members on weather, crops, local happenings and certainly commitment to agriculture and education. It is a great experience and I encourage anyone who is interested to seek out the application when that time comes around.

**Nancy L. Strunk**  
SWAT Local and State Government Sub-Committee Member

## Seed Matters

### The Center for Food Integrity

An initiative called Seed Matters from the Clif Bar Family Foundation has produced an animated video to promote concern of consolidation in the seed industry. The video stars Mr. Seed, an organic seed taking a dim view of his genetically-modified counterparts. Visitors to SeedMatters.org are encouraged to sign a petition letter asking the Department of Justice and USDA to block mergers of companies producing genetically modified seed. The initiative is promoting the effort via Facebook, Twitter and other social media channels.

The Seed Matters campaign is reminiscent of the streaming video series “Farmed and Dangerous” produced two years ago by Chipotle Mexican Grill, which attempted to demonize modern farming methods in a satirical format.

The natural inclination for food system stakeholders might be to hold Clif accountable for their outrageous attacks on agriculture. A key question is -- what's the best way to engage to minimize the negative impact and encourage a more balanced public discussion of today's agriculture?

Reacting with anger could reinforce a perception that modern agriculture is heavy-handed and wants to quash dissenting opinion. Even when opinions are outlandish and inaccurate, as is the case with Mr. Seed, attacking the attackers could be perceived as having something to hide.

CFI believes a better strategy is to engage those who are taking part in the conversation to introduce them to real farmers -- individuals who can help demonstrate the way real farmers operate, using technology to farm responsibly and sustainably. A result of employing these practices, farmers align with the values of the vast majority of Americans and are nothing like the unsavory characters portrayed in the Mr. Seed video.

Farmers and others in food and agriculture are justifiably angry about the unfair and unflattering representation, but drawing additional attention might push more viewers to watch. Engaging in the conversation, much of which may be online in this case, allows the food system to participate with those who are interested without directly promoting the

Continue Seed Matters on page 7....

# REGISTRATION OPEN for JULY 23 CDL PREP COURSE

There will be a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) prep course on Saturday, July 23, 2016 at 7:30 a.m. in the Farm Bureau Auditorium. The class will cover general knowledge of CDLs: air brakes, combination vehicles, tankers, doubles and triples, passenger vehicles and hazardous materials.

A CDL is required if you drive any of the following: any combination vehicle with a Gross Combination Weight Rating of 26,001 pounds or more, providing the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of the vehicle being towed is more than 10,000 pounds; any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more or any such vehicle towing another not in excess of 10,000

pounds; any vehicle designed to transport 15 or more people and any vehicle required by federal law to be placarded while transporting hazardous materials.

Farmers and farm employees are exempt if they do not drive a semi-trailer and are within 150 air miles of their homes.

The cost of the prep course is \$50 for Farm Bureau members and \$55 for non-members. To register for the class, clip the bottom of this page and send it with the payment to the Farm Bureau, 801 N. Country Fair Dr., Champaign, IL 61821. Registration deadline is Monday, July 18, 2016. There is a minimum of 10 participants to hold the class and a maximum of 50 total participants.

## Registration Form for CDL Prep Course

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
street or county road address city zip

Driver's License #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
home/work cell phone

### Check the test(s) which needs to be taken:

\_\_\_\_\_ General Knowledge \_\_\_\_\_ Doubles/Triples

\_\_\_\_\_ Air Brakes \_\_\_\_\_ Passenger Vehicles

\_\_\_\_\_ Combination Vehicles \_\_\_\_\_ Hazardous Materials  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tankers

Farm Bureau member (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ Non Farm Bureau member (\$55)

Return to:

Champaign County Farm Bureau

Registration Deadline: July 18, 2016

ATTN: Brenda  
801 N. Country Fair Dr.  
Champaign, IL 61821

## Champaign County Farm Bureau Tractor Drive & Family Picnic

Saturday,  
August 27,  
2016

Parkland Community College, Champaign IL

### Schedule of Events

10 a.m. Tractor Drive leaves The Andersons,

3525 CR 800 E, Champaign (Staley Road)

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 The Andersons



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 Staley Road to Bradley Avenue to 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



## Trying to Figure Out the Markets?

July 11th - 6:30PM

CCFB Auditorium

Dean Killian - Premier Cooperative

Premier Cooperative is an Illinois farmer owned cooperative providing agricultural commodities and energy products. We give the first step into the grain marketing channel. We offer outstanding service that is fast, efficient, and technologically advanced; delivered always with integrity. Our goal is to enhance the business of our farmer owners while supporting the communities in which we all live and work.

Premier Cooperative facilities, where grain initially enters the marketing channels, are maintained by full time millwright crews. The network of railroads and interstate highways serving our trade territory are indicative to the complete shipping capabilities of Premier Cooperative. The early Illinois Prairie settlers efforts to grow and market their crop, have been instrumental in making Premier Cooperative an important force in serving the world food economy as a farm cooperative with solid resources and modern facilities.

## "Check Your Calendar!"

### July

4	Independence Day - Office Closed	
11	Marketing Club - Dean Killian	6:30 PM
11	Women's Committee	9:30 AM
14	Prime Timers	10:00 AM
18	<b>Deadline to Register for CDL Classes</b>	
19	Legislative Committee	7:30 AM
19	Premier Lady Marketing	9:00 AM
21	<b>Full Board</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
23	<b>YAL Social</b>	
23	CDL Classes in CCFB Auditorium	7:30 AM

### August

1	Marketing Club	6:30 PM
4	YAL Meeting	6:30 PM
5-6	YAL Kane County Exchange	
8	Women's Committee	9:30 a.m.
10	Deadline for ALOYTT Reservations	5 p.m.
11	Prime Timers	10 a.m.

## Southern Illinois Peaches

Orders and payment must be received by the CCFB office by August 1!  
Peaches are from Rendleman Orchard in southern Illinois.

	QTY	Price
Crest Haven		
Cling Free @ \$28.50	___ 25 lbs.	\$ ___
Non-Members @ \$31.50	___ 25 lbs.	\$ ___
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ ___</b>

ORDERS DUE

BY AUGUST 1!!!

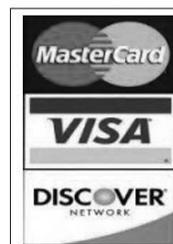
Orders will arrive mid-August!  
Postcard will be mailed at that time with pickup information

Please pay in full at time of order.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_



Please Return Completed Peach Order Form to the Champaign County Farm Bureau Office with Payment

# Stay Connected with your Legislators with Jeff Fisher, Legislative Co-Chairman



Jeff Fisher is a Champaign County Farm Bureau Board Member and CCFB's Legislative Committee Chair. He makes it a priority to stay up to date and informed of legislative issues affecting Champaign County Farm Bureau members. He has experience contacting legislators and being active in the political process. It is important for all CCFB Members to share their concerns and let their voices be heard! Jeff Fisher knows it is possible to make a difference and encourages all of you to get involved in the process!

## Jeff Fisher

"I have had the pleasure of visiting with legislators in Washington D.C. and Springfield. Each time they talk about the importance of our communication and the value they put on our visits. Illinois Representative Greg Harris, Champaign County Farm Bureau's Adopted Legislator has asked us for our input on many diverse topics that affect Illinois and Agriculture. We have made Greg a Friend of Agriculture while developing a working relationship that is helpful to both of us.

A recent vote in the Illinois House dealt with rural property rights. A local Representative was in favor of the bill which CCFB and its members were against. We made immediate contact with the local Representative to ask for a change in his vote. Through several calls to the legislator and a personal visit by a contingent of our leadership he changed his vote to side with our views.

If time is a concern when it comes to contacting legislators, IFB and CCFB make it quick. You can sign on a group e-mail which

you only have to sign up for. Another quick way is making a call to the legislator's office and leave a message with an aide or a voicemail. This can take as little as 2-3 minutes.

If being informed or information is a concern IFB and CCFB have information for you to make you comfortable when talking with your legislator or their aide. Email is another easy way to get your views to your legislator if you prefer not to speak in person with them."

## How can CCFB Members get involved and make a difference?

Illinois Farm Bureau has tips for contacting your legislator from a visit to a phone call to an email. A very easy way to get in touch with a legislator is by picking up the phone! What you do next is important. Here are some tips!

1. Be Prepared - Think, or even speak through, what you want to say.

2. Find the Right Telephone Number - There are numerous ways to find phone numbers.

- Ask your county Farm Bureau.

- Use the Illinois Farm Bureau's Legislative Action Center, at [www.ilfb.org](http://www.ilfb.org)

Type in your address and your legislator's contact information appears.

- Use a switchboard.

**U.S. Capitol Switchboard:**  
**202-224-3121**

**State of Illinois Switchboard:**  
**217-782-2000**

3. Talk to Right Person - Remember that telephone calls may be taken by a staff member, not the legislator. When asking a legislator to vote yes or no, you can share that with the person answering the phone. If you need to say more, ask to speak with the aide who handles the issue.

4. Identify Yourself - State your name, address, and indicate that you are a constituent.

5. Be Brief and Concise - Tell the person answering the phone that you would like to leave a brief message, such as: "Please tell Senator/ Representative (Name) that I support/oppose (House Bill \_\_\_ or Senate Bill \_\_\_)."

6. Provide Reasons - Say why you support or oppose a bill. Ask for your legislator's position on the bill. You may also request a written response to your telephone call.

7. Say Thank You - Thank the person answering the phone for his/her time. After a vote, call again and thank your legislator for their vote.



Left to Right: Gerald Henry, Andy Hughes, Brad Uken, Paul Berbaum, and Jeff Fisher  
This group was the last to visit the capitol to meet with legislators on behalf of Champaign County Agriculture and representing Champaign County Farm Bureau

# At The Farm Gate July 2016

By Joanie Stiers

## Vacation anticipation

### Families take break from farm's daybreak demands

A couple days ahead of a childhood family vacation, our tame and loving farm cat bit me multiple times down the length of my shin. "Bear" reacted in panic as he momentarily hung upside down by a back paw, which caught in the chain of the swing where I had cradled him. Bear scurried loose uninjured. After some doctoring and the validation of a rabies-free cat, I stood determined to go on vacation. Mom packed a wound care kit for the Smoky Mountains road trip that our family had eagerly scheduled between the farm's high-priority demands.

Our kids' ongoing "countdown to the Dells" sparks a rush of cherished and sometimes unique memories from my own childhood family vacations. As a kid, the anticipation of vacation rivaled only the nights before Christmas and 4-H Fair. In fact, trips to county and state fairs are considered vacation for some of today's most devoted livestock showing families. Regardless of the location, farm families resemble any other family in their desire to unwind, except the venue never will include New England fall foliage during our corn harvest obligations.

As a kid, we traveled only by family car, frequently in the summer and sometimes the winter in conjunction with a farm show. Dad even drove the car to the top of Pike's Peak, one of the highest summits of the Rocky Mountains, where Mom lost her cool from her passenger's side view of a steep, rocky descent. In that moment, Mom preferred our unofficial crop tours. By instinct, we monitored crop conditions at a 60 mph drive-by throughout the Midwest.

In the case of traffic jams, Dad used our Chevrolet Celebrity's dash-mounted, farm CB radio to tune into semi-tractor trailer drivers, our trusted traffic reporters. My brother and I passed the miles with screen-less activities, football quizzes and license plate games. Still, somewhere between the irrigated crop circles of Nebraska and lifeless desert of Arizona, I vowed never to take road transportation to California again.

The nation's largest roller coasters tempted us and claimed a couple of Dad's farm caps. We cooled off in lots of caves. Above ground, we sported shorts, the only time the public saw Dad's legs. Hours of fun at the hotel pool showcased the guys' genuine farmer tans, and by evening, we found the best putt-putt courses with windmills and waterfalls.

My parents worked ahead on the farm as best they could and successfully left the farm's concerns behind for a few days. Still, they appreciated long-distance rainfall reports from relatives who covered farm chores. Smartphones and weather data apps provide that information instantly now. As an adult, I look forward to our upcoming vacation's carefree fun, and I remind our kids to keep their cuddly cats away from the swing and hammock.

*About the author: Joanie Stiers, a wife and mother of two, writes from farm country and works on her family's grain and livestock farm in West-Central Illinois.*

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**The Ribeye**

**The Great One Steak Place**  
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*Agriculture Leaders of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: ALOYTT invites YOU to:*

**Dinner at The Ribeye**  
*(dutch treat!)*

**Sunday, August 21st**  
**6 p.m.**

*Reservations Required by: Wednesday, August 10*  
*Call 352-5235 to RSVP and plan to JOIN US for a GREAT MEAL and an evening of FUN!*

**RSVP is Necessary**



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**KIRK BULTA**  
Executive Director



**MYLA MUNRO**  
Earth Partners Coordinator

## Illinois Agriculture. What a Wild Ride!

By: Myla Munro

This year's Summer Ag Institute (SAI) showcased the wonders of Illinois' most valuable resource; Agriculture. The 13 teachers left the workshop with a wealth of knowledge about how they could incorporate Illinois' greatest attribute in the classroom while teaching math, science, English language arts and social studies to their students.

The teachers that participated this year ranged from a Kindergarten teacher at Westview in Champaign to a high school Advanced Placement Human Geography teacher from South Elgin High School. Myla and Larry Haigh, Ford-Iroquois Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, who partnered with Earth Partners this year kicked off the workshop by introducing the group to the Illinois mAGic Kit. This Kit is an incredible resource to teachers and has lessons for students about many of the important aspects of agriculture; from why Illinois looks the way it does to how farmers market their grain. Gale Cunningham from WYXY spoke to the group about the importance of disseminating agricultural news to those within and outside of farming. The group then had the opportunity to visit Wood and Wood Farms to learn more about raising beef cattle. The first day was concluded by a visit from Julie Blunier from Illinois Soybean Association, who shared resources like the Pod to Plate program that teaches students about soybeans and agriculture.

Tuesday's focus was all about water, soil and technology. The group first arrived at Birkey's Farm Store in Urbana where Greg Stierwalt gave a tour of the facility and then bravely invited the teachers to drive one of the tractors! The group then met with UIUC research specialist Lowell Gentry to learn more about watersheds and nitrogen loss. Jonathon Manuel and Renee Weitekamp from

the Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District demonstrated the Rainfall Simulator and other natural resource education materials. Illinois Farm Bureau's Lindsey Ramsey joined us that afternoon to discuss how farmers can manage nutrients and the strategy that Illinois farmers are adopting to help combat nutrient losses. Heritage 4th grade teacher, Carly Shonkwiler said, "I had never thought about soil nutrients being lost in water run-off. I also didn't realize this would be a bad thing for the ecology of the waterways, rivers and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico." University of Illinois Extension Educator, Dennis Bowman wrapped up by talking about how farmers are utilizing emerging technology like drones on their farms.

Jennifer Arp, a doctoral student within the Crop Sciences department at University of Illinois came to Parkland College on Wednesday to talk with teachers about the science of GMOs. She began her presentation by discussing the historical innovations that helped improve crops, biotechnology and why genetic engineering is utilized and beneficial. Carrie Miller, business teacher at Iroquois West High School in Gilman, commented that "Prior to having taken this course, I (like many Americans) naively believed in the media's negative portrayal of GMOs. Now I know that GMOs are simply products that have been changed through genetics to improve yield, taste and/or appearance." The group then traveled to Prairie Fruits Farms where co-owner Wes Jarrell gave a tour of their diverse farm which includes dairy goats, vegetables, herbs and an orchard. While the group was touring, Leslie Cooperband put the finishing touches on the locally sourced lunch that was enjoyed family-style at a farmhouse table. That afternoon Champaign County Farm Bureau President, Chris Murray invited the teachers out to Murray Farms where teachers saw, first-hand, a modern row crop farm. The last stop of the day was to JT Walker's Brewery, where brewer

## Golf Outing Set for August 15th at Urbana Country Club

Join the CCFB Foundation on Monday, August 15th at the Urbana Country Club for the 2016 Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation Golf Outing. Formerly the Ben Louis Open held in memory of the late COUNTRY Financial Agency Manager Ben Louis; this year's outing has a new look, but our focus of supporting agricultural education has not changed.

Sponsored by the Champaign Agency of COUNTRY Financial, the outing will bring together golfers of all skill levels in support of the Foundation's Scholarship and Earth Partners programs.

Hole sponsorships are still available and can be secured by contacting Foundation Executive Director Kirk Bulta at (217) 352-5235 or via email at [kirk@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:kirk@ccfarmbureau.com). A registration form can be found on the CCFB Foundation website [www.ccfbfoundation.com](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com) and can be mailed to the Farm Bureau office at 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821. Teams are limited so be sure to sign up your foursome today!

For more information regarding the CCFB Foundation Golf Outing, or other Foundation programs visit our new website at [www.ccfbfoundation.com](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com).

Phil Wilson talked about agriculture's impact on craft beer and brewing.

On our fourth day of SAI, the teachers learned about Illinois geology, soil structure and health from retired NRCS Geologist Roger Windhorn at Allerton Park. From Allerton Park, the group headed to The Anderson's grain elevator. Operations Manager, Todd Garber gave the teachers a behind the scenes tour of the elevator and shared how grain elevators receive and ship grain. Regional Sales Manager, Brian Stark then discussed how grain is marketed locally and globally. The day was rounded out with speakers Karen Schmitt of the Midwest Dairy Association and Monica Nyman of the St. Louis District Dairy Council.

On Friday Illinois Ag in the Classroom Education Director, Kevin Daugherty came to highlight multiple AITC lessons that teachers could integrate into their current lessons. Kevin had the teachers ginning cotton and milling wheat; all while connecting agricul-

ture in a way that their students can learn and understand. Haley Siergiej from Nutrients for Life came in to talk about the importance of responsible fertilizer use in growing healthy crops and how American farmers are helping to feed a growing population. Trent Hawker, a self-proclaimed "Plant Geek" with the Ford-Iroquois Extension Office also shared about the role pollinators play in agriculture.

This year's SAI workshop provided the teachers with a multitude of experiences, resources and lesson ideas about local and state-wide agriculture within a week's time. St. Joseph Grade School teacher, Kristen Kirk said "The SAI truly allowed me to view agriculture in a new light. While I always had respect for farmers, I was not aware of how complex and challenging the field of agriculture is. The speakers and field visits demonstrated what an impact agriculture has not only on the residents of Illinois, but around the world as well."

## Henry American Farmer Tribute Gun Raffle



**.22 caliber Farmer Tribute Edition Rifle**

**Tickets \$20 each - ONLY 100 SOLD!**

**Sponsored by Freedom Firearms, Rantoul.**

**Visit the CCFB or Freedom Firearms to buy your tickets.**



**On Left:** Heritage teachers Justin Lee and Deb Wascher complete the 'Science in Your Shopping Cart' lesson and work to identify unknown substances. One of these substances was Super Slurper, a corn-based substance created in the 1970s at the USDA ARS National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research. Super Slurper is capable of absorbing hundreds of times its own weight in water and is found commercially in seed coatings, diapers and automobile fuel filters.

*More photos of the Summer Ag Institute on page 8*



# ILLINI FS



**MARK THORNSBROUGH,  
GENERAL MANAGER**

## Nitrogen Management - Utilizing Tools to Prevent Nutrient Loss

By: Dr. Howard Brown

N-WATCH is a new tool to learn more about the dynamics of soil N within each producer's farming enterprise. It helps account for specific N management and soil environmental differences created by a different use of the 4Rs of N management (Right Source, Rate, Timing, and Placement) as well as soil environmental differences created by different tillage practices. Visit with your local Illini FS crop specialist for more information about N-WATCH as well as other nutrient stewardship tools that help improve environmental quality while focusing on farm profitability.

**Special Note:** The effort of Illinois producers and the IFCA to retain control of nutrient management through support of the fertilizer check-off (NREC) have made it possible to keep nutrient management and environmental stewardship in Illinois an incentive-based, voluntary approach. Illinois is the envy of the Midwest when it comes to producer-supported applied production agriculture research. Illinois leads the way with voluntary, incentive-based programs that will improve nutrient stewardship with a focus on farm profitability. Farm profitability must be a part of any stewardship

### Follow the Interns

By: Lesley Gooding

Matt Hoose, Illini FS Crop Insurance Specialist, has been keeping the 2016 Illini FS summer interns very busy. Obtaining hands on experience is important for the interns. The interns are Dylan Price and Zack Smith, based out of the Dewey location and Craig Bloemker, working out of the Illini FS Kemp location. The FS interns have received their laptops and have been busy ever since. This month all the interns have been busy crop scouting and working with Monsanto's Field Print Calculator.

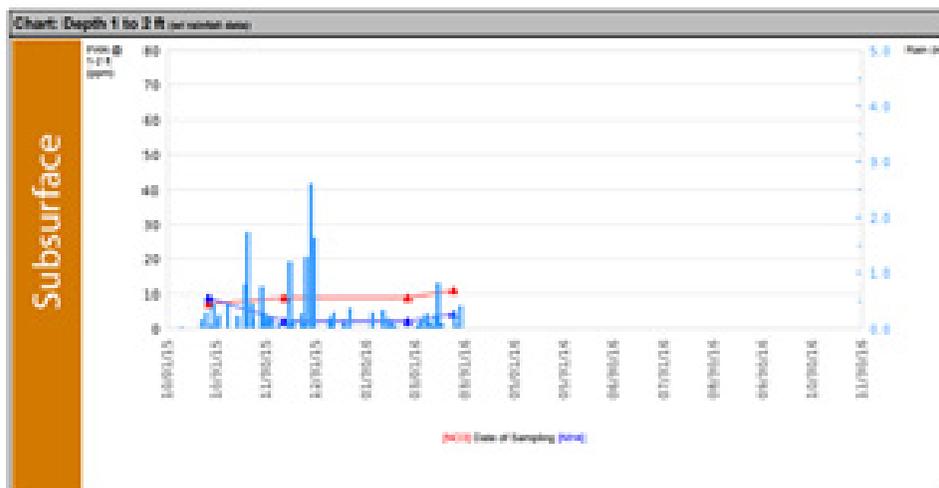
Dylan Price, covering Vermilion County, has found fairly clean fields and will soon be evaluating if fungicide needs to be applied. Dylan's internship also requires a special, individualized project be completed by the end of his internship. He has been working with Dr. Howard Brown and visiting with crop specialists to begin this special project. The project is tailored to utilize his skills, experience and special interests. At the completion of internship, the project is presented to Growmark's CEO, Board of Directors and other peers.

Zack Smith has been crop scouting fields in Champaign County and working with the Field Print Calculator through Monsanto. The Field Print Calculator requires Zack to interview farmers and crop specialists

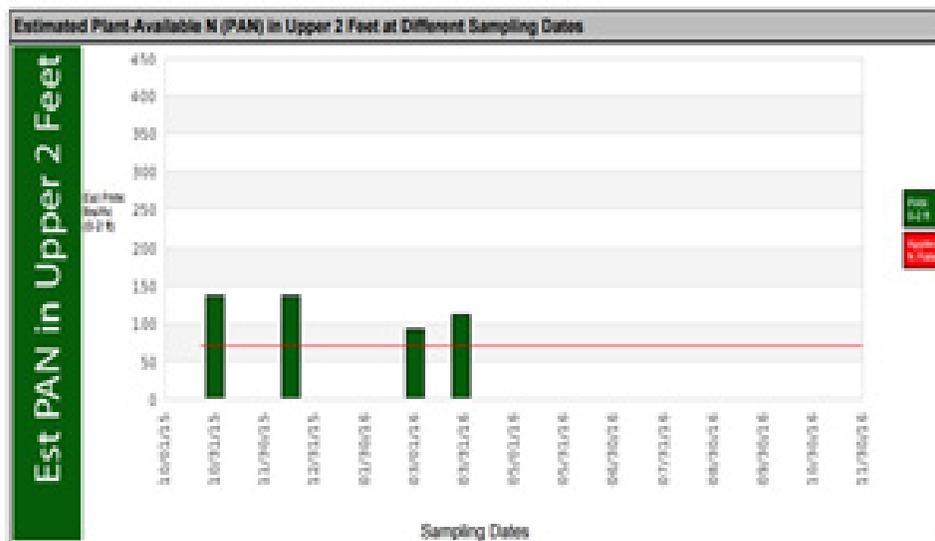
Note: In all charts, rainfall data is current as of 3 days ago.



**Graph 1:** The first graph shows the concentration (ppm) Plant-Available N (nitrate and ammonium-N) at a depth of 1 foot each sampling date. The red horizontal line represents how much N is needed at a depth of 1 foot when the plant is 6 to 12 inches tall (soil to middle of whorl). Note: the red rectangle does not appear with the graphic viewed. It only appears on the producer's N-WATCH Report.



**Graph 2:** The second graph represents nitrate and ammonium-N at a depth of 1 - 2 feet. Although the plant can still utilize N at this depth, there is a risk of loss by leaching if a significant amount of soil water moves through the profile.



**Graph 3:** The third graph represents the estimated total pounds per acre of Plant-Available N at 0 - 2 feet (green bars) compared to the pounds of N applied per acre (red horizontal lines)

to determine the ecological footprint being made by farmers. The findings from this program will show the thought behind farming practices and the efforts made by those in the agriculture industry to be good environmental stewards.

Craig Bloemker has been scouting fields in Clark, Edgar, and Douglas Counties finding Army Worm and European Corn Boar. These counties got some rain and crops were in the field

a little later than the crops in Champaign County. Craig has also been working with the N-Watch program and has taken 12+ samples to get things rolling.

Matt Hoose and the FS Interns will soon be visiting the Syngenta Research Facility for some additional disease identification training. Be sure to follow along next month as the interns wrap up their summer learning experience!

Nitrogen management is the second greatest input cost in corn production, the focus of most Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC) funding, and a potential threat to water quality, yet there remains much we need to learn. It has inspired researchers to dedicate their careers to unravel its behavior in the soil environment. Businesses, educators and many research specialists have invested significant time and money in an attempt to predict the dynamics of soil N. Two new tools made available through the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association (IFCA) offer some insight to the dynamics of N in our fertile Midwest soils. Visit [www.ifca.com](http://www.ifca.com) and click on "Keep it 4R Crop Tools". Both tools were initially started through efforts of the Illinois Council on Best Management Practices (CBMP) and financial support of NREC.



**Tool 1:** "N Rate Trials" (above). Nitrogen rate studies sponsored by funds from the Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC) over the past three years are posted for review. This tool allows producers to see how much N was required to optimize corn yield. The studies are represented by year and by time of application, with several incorporating two different timings. Simply click on the map pin that represents the geography of interest. Map pins are identified by the year and time of application. All studies included were replicated three times at each location and the average (mean) of each treatment was reported.

**Tool 2:** "N-WATCH 2016 Update". This tool provides a map of Illinois with pins (markers) designating N-WATCH sites throughout the state. Simply click on the desired pin to look at the current N-WATCH Report.



FINANCIAL

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

## Americans' Financial Outlooks Reach A New Norm

After a significant increase in positivity toward personal finances last year, sentiments have stagnated, according to the latest COUNTRY Financial Security Index®, a semi-annual score measuring the overall sense of financial security in the United States. In mid-2015, the Index score jumped 2.1 points to 66.9, the highest score reported since the financial crisis hit the U.S. in 2008. However, following the uptick, the score has moved at a fraction of that rate in the past year, settling in slightly lower at 66.7 in its latest reading. On an individual level, many are accepting their current financial situation as a new normal. More than half of Americans – just over 51 percent – say their level of financial security is staying about the same. However, in general, men are more likely to believe their circumstances are improving than women. “Americans seem to be settling into a new normal and accepting their less than ideal financial picture,” says Erin Klein, Supervisor of COUNTRY Capital Management Company Sales and Business Solutions. “Yet, as the COUNTRY Financial Security Index® score settles into its latest groove, women’s sentiments remain closer to record lows in the face of various societal issues that act as headwinds to achieving financial security.”

### Meeting short-term goals reveals gender gap

In the aftermath of The Great Recession, Americans’ financial sentiments reached an all-time low of 63.7. Since reaching the bottom of the trough, the Index score amongst men has rebounded to 68.2, past the national average and near the all-time high of 69.3 set in June 2008. However, the Index score amongst women remains stuck closer to the all-time low at 65.1 – and more than three in four women (76 percent) don’t see things getting better. At the same time, women are more likely to feel their overall financial situation is staying the same in comparison to men.

**Men are making strides to improve their financial security on a short-term basis, making it easier to see their overall level of financial security improving:**

In the past three months, men are more likely than women to have set aside money for savings and investments. Men are also more likely to feel confident compared to women in their ability to pay debts – such as mortgages, car loans, credit cards and other debts – as they come due. “When your day-to-day finances are out of order, it’s easy to feel overwhelmed – and the lack of confidence women are feeling overall is likely due to their inability to save, invest and pay off debts,” Klein says. “Taking steps to adjust your expenses and spending habits can help establish a base for meeting both short-term and long-term financial goals.”

### Large money matters weigh more on women

Beyond the basic short-term financial goals such as saving, investing and paying off debts, women have a more negative outlook when it comes to meeting longer-term financial goals. “One tricky decision in particular is the choice between setting aside money for the college education of your children versus saving money for retirement,” Klein says. “All parents struggle with this decision, but for women – single moms, especially – who are less likely to set aside money at all, this decision fuels some of their biggest financial worries.”

### With the cost of a college education rising and longevity extending in the U.S., women are unsure about their ability to cover the costs:

- Women are significantly less confident they will have resources to send children to college than men
- Women also feel significantly less likely they will have enough money and resources to enjoy a comfortable retirement

“In order to meet long-term financial goals, everyone needs to have a plan and actively update it as their circumstances and desires change,” Klein says. “A financial advisor can help address what seem like overwhelming financial burdens to ease the anxiety many women – and Americans in general – are feeling.”



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**Salute the Red, White and Blue with Prime Timers**

**on July 14 starting at 10 a.m.**

**Program:**

**Luke Allen - Cranberry Bogs**

**Music by:**

**David Fulton**



**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:**

**August 11**

**September 8**

**October 13**

*Seed Matters continued from page 1.....*

Seed Matters campaign or Clif Bar.

**How to Engage:**

If you see comments or are asked about this issue, here is an approach and some sample messages to keep in mind:

1. Be committed to having a conversation, not just educating, defending or correcting misinformation.
2. Be principle-driven: Know your values and how values drive you when it comes to ag/food.
3. Keep your emotions in check: Conversations are important, but they may get uncomfortable.

**With that approach in mind:**

**Listen** -- Actively listen, without judgment, for agreement and points of connection to understand how their concern is tied to their underlying values.

**Ask** -- Ask questions to invite dialogue and clarify their perspective. **Acknowledge:** Show that you heard the question or statement. **Understand:** Ask questions that show you're working to understand them better.

**After listening and asking questions, engage and share:**

I welcome increased interest in food today. So much has changed over the last half century it is understandable that new technology is being met with skepticism. Consumers and their families deserve the safest and healthiest products in the world. I/we appreciate hearing concerns and answering questions. Our goal is for consumers to share our confidence in the safety of our products and the ethics behind our practices.

Global estimates point to the need for 100 percent more food by mid-century than what is being produced today. To meet the growing global demand for food, we must produce more using less through innovation and the responsible use of technology, which America's farmers have been doing for decades. It is in humanity's best interest to use technology in food production because it allows us to have the safest, most affordable and nutritious supply of food needed to feed a rapidly growing global population.

Consumers today understandably have difficulty identifying with today's food producers. Over the last half-century, agriculture has changed in the same manner as other sectors. Mobile phones have changed the way we communicate. Online services have changed the way we shop, bank, and entertain ourselves. Most people appreciate the convenience and efficiency that new technology affords us. Agriculture has progressed similarly, but those advances aren't always recognized because so few people are involved in farming.

U.S. consumers have the choice between purchasing organic and conventional foods and make food purchasing decisions that reflect their values, concerns, and lifestyles. For optimal health, experts say consumers should eat a balanced diet regardless of whether the food is produced by organic or by conventional practices.

**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 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)**

**BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- AG ELECTRIC
- AGRIBLE
- A & R ELECTRIC
- ALL ABOUT EYES
- 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
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- TICKETSATWORK.COM
- WYLDEWOOD CELLARS
- ZA'S RESTAURANT

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

**FARMER'S SHARE LUNCH**

**\*Saturday, July 16\*  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Mahomet IGA**

**25 CENTS/PER MEAL**

**Fact: For every \$1 spent on food the American Farmer receives 25 cents**

**Meal includes  
Butterfly Pork Chop or Hotdog  
Chips  
Ice Cream  
Water or Soda**

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS**

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

**Theme Park Tickets Available at CCFB!**

Tickets are now on sale! Call Champaign County Farm Bureau for the discount code for your favorite theme parks! Discounts apply to Six Flags, St. Louis; Six Flags, Great America; and Holiday World and Splashin' Safari in Santa Claus, Indiana.

Why wait in line and pay full price when you can buy your tickets in advance and spend the entire day with your family having fun?

Remember: Children ages 2 and under are FREE! For more information call 217-352-5235.



Contact your local county Farm Bureau for more information.

**For More Information, Visit:**

<http://www.cfiengage.com/blog/clif-bar-seed-matter-project-whats->



President, Chris Murray making tortillas



Ag Summer Camp kids learning about plant nutrients



Frank Hardimon and Paulette Brock assist kids with their apple discovery activity "Apple Smiles"



Sara Tondini and Nancy Strunk assisting with "pumpkin pie in a bag"



Madison Mitchell explained dairy cows, what they eat, shared fun facts and let kids pet it



Manager, Brad Uken, helping with coloring activity



NRCS brought their rain simulator to ag camp



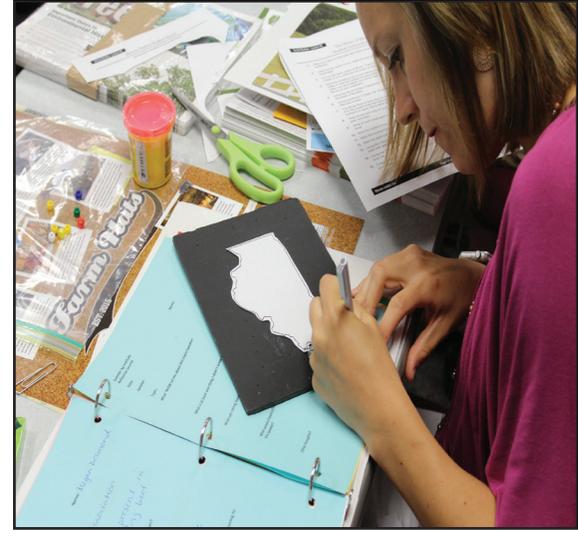
Birkey's Farm Store in Urbana let Follow the Farmstead attendees sit in machinery and ask questions - it is amazing to consumers how large the machinery is when they are able to touch and sit inside it. Photo by Greg Stierwalt



Jeff Fisher explains the purpose of his horse trailer design at Ag Summer Camp



Aaron Wagener of Agribile Inc. demonstrated the new DJI Phantom 4 UAV at Follow the Farmstead on June 11th. Agribile opened their doors to give the public a first-hand view of agricultural technology.



Heritage 3rd grade teacher, Megan Desmond creates a relief map that will help students visualize how the topography of Illinois affects agricultural production in our state.



Dennis Bowman from University of Illinois Extension demonstrated flying his drone and Justin Lee, the music teacher at Heritage, even got a chance to try it out!



Operation LEAD, a collaboration with Champaign County 4-H and Champaign County Farm Bureau Young Ag Leaders. The mission of the day was to offer leadership tips and become better leaders while working as a team.



Whale Watch, one of many obstacles at the 4-H Memorial Camp Challenge Course during Operation LEAD.



At Operation LEAD, 4-H members were discovering their "true colors" and determining their leadership style and personality. Colors training allows individuals to see what their peers leadership styles are too.