



# Champaign County Farm Bureau News

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“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.”

## Corn in Northeastern China

Submitted by: Emerson Nafziger, Crop Sciences, University of Illinois



The season in Liaoning is similar to our season: the crop is planted in April and harvest starts in mid-September. The dry spring means less difficulty in getting corn planted on time, but planting equipment is small, and many farmers with only a few acres plant and harvest their crop by hand. Row spacing in most fields is about 22 inches, but there is some variability in spacing from a ridging operation done before planting and from planting without markers. Plant population is matched to hybrid; in the photograph above, the number on

the hybrid sign is the suggested plant population. The land unit is a mou, which is about 1/6th of an acre, so the recommended population for this hybrid (SK567) is about 5,000 x 6, or about 30,000 plants per acre. This is among the highest recommended populations I saw; populations in general might be lower there because a lot of the crop is hand-harvested, and that works better when ears are large.

Continue Corn in China on Page 2.....

## UAS Technology

By: Lersley Gooding



Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) technology is changing the agriculture industry. Utilizing this technology has opened up a variety of new and useful ways for farmers to manage their operations. New rules have recently taken effect for operating unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Are you up to date with the changes? Do you have an interest in purchasing a drone and integrating it into your operation? As of August 2016, the FAA enacted new UAS rules that will affect you over the months and years to come! According to FAA, enacting these new rules will lead to approximately 600,000 UAS being used commercially in the first year. **Did you know? The use of small (weighing less than 55 lbs.) UAS on your farm is considered commercial.**

This means a farmer/UAS owner and user must secure a re-

mote pilot certificate to fly a UAS. The FAA published a summary of small unmanned aircraft rules (Part 107). Part 107 includes “To qualify for a remote pilot certificate, a person must:

- Demonstrate aeronautical knowledge by either:
- Passing an initial aeronautical knowledge test at an FAA-approved knowledge testing center; or
- Hold a part 61 pilot certificate other than student pilot, complete a flight review within the previous 24 months, and complete a small UAS online training course provided by the FAA.

- Be vetted by the Transportation Security Administration.
- Be at least 16 years old“

**Did you know? Parkland College is a FAA-approved Knowledge Testing Center.**

Parkland College offers a UAS Certification Exam Prep. This class will allow the student to discover what all commercial drone/ UAS operators will need to know in order to pass the certification test. Learn pertinent information regarding regulations, airspace, weather, and more with Mandy Briggs, Certified Flight Instructor at the Institute of Aviation at Parkland College.

Continue UAS on page 3.....

In 2014, US farmers produced 14.2 billion bushels on 83.1 million acres, with an average yield of 171 bushels per acre. China is the second-largest producer in the world, and in 2014 Chinese farmers grew corn on 88.8 million acres with an average yield of about 96 bushels per acre, for total production of about 8.5 billion bushels. The third-largest producer is Brazil, which produced about 3.1 billion bushels with an average yield of a little less than 90 bushels per acre in 2014.

I attended an international crop conference in Beijing in August 2016, then traveled about 400 miles by high-speed train (at speeds up to 200 mph) northeast to Shenyang, the capital of Liaoning province. Shenyang is the fourth-largest city in China, with a population including suburbs of around 8 million people. It’s at the same latitude as – and is a “sister city” to –

Chicago. I spent three days there visiting scientists at the Liaoning Corn Research Institute, which is part of the Liaoning Academy of Agricultural Sciences. The LAAS might be considered the equivalent to our State Experiment Station. The “corn belt” in China runs from the central part of the country to the northeast, all the way up to China’s border with Siberia, which at 53 or 54 degrees north latitude is as far north as central Manitoba. The northeastern part of the country, where corn is the major crop, has productive soils, moderate summer temperatures, and, in some areas, good rainfall. Annual precipitation in Shenyang is about 27 inches, so some 9 inches less than in Illinois, but about 19 inches of rain fall from May through August. That’s similar to seasonal rainfall in Illinois, but it’s drier in the spring and wetter in July and August.

Soils in Liaoning do not hold as much water for the crop as do most Illinois soils, and despite good rainfall amounts, water stress often limits yields. Liaoning has about 10 million acres of corn, and yields are at about the national average of 90 to 100 bushels per acre. This includes some irrigated corn. In the 2016 season they’ve received above-normal rainfall, and the crop looks very good. The following photograph shows good canopy color and good light interception; ear size was good as well. I would estimate yields of 150 to 180 bushels per acre for much of the crop I saw. Other parts of the province are reported to be drier, and yields there will be lower.



# The Challenge

## Are YOU Up For It?

### Help your community today! Invest An Acre and make the difference. Eastern Illinois Food Bank is accepting bushels to be donated for money at: Premier Cooperative, Anderson’s and Cargill.

.....Continued China Corn from page 1

Most corn I saw is grown using tillage, with implements ranging from the moldboard plow to disks to rotary tillers. A farming company that I visited some 60 miles north of Laoning had about 5,000 acres of corn, made up of the land of many farmers, some of whom worked for the co-any. Land rent is paid to the government, and is relatively low. Each farmer has a piece of land more or less permanently assigned, that he can farm or rent out. Organizing into larger units allows for the purchase of equipment that individual farmers wouldn’t be able to own.

Planting equipment is adequate but not very modern. Most planters I saw were 2-row, mounted planters, which in 22-inch rows doesn’t get planting done very fast. But having enough work and keeping crop prices high enough to keep people occupied in farming instead of moving to cities to take factory jobs is an important policy. The recent announcement by China that corn prices will drop, and the case brought by the US to the WTO regarding too-high subsidies for corn producers in China may lower corn acreage in China. But as an observation, corn is “the crop that we grow” in regions like the one I visited, just like it is here in Illinois. There are few cropping alternatives, especially given the existing equipment and infrastructure built for corn. For small farmers, corn is the only field crop that can be planted and harvested by hand.

Most of the commercial hybrids are developed by public institutions, who license hybrids to seed companies for seed production and marketing. Several multinational seed companies have a presence, but I didn’t see much evidence that they sell their own hybrids there. An exception is the widespread use of a hybrid named “Pioneer 335” which in fact (I wasn’t able to confirm this) may be the hybrid we grew as Pioneer

335 more than 20 years ago. Hybrids look reasonably good, but some seem to be later in maturity than might be ideal for the conditions. First frost is several weeks earlier than in Illinois, and when harvest begins in mid-September, grain moisture is often in the high 20s.

Most fields that I saw are well-fertilized, with good crop color. Most P and K are applied with the planter, usually as blended fertilizer. Any additional nitrogen needed is sidedressed as urea using drop applicators. The crop looked very dark green in many fields, and I would guess that more N was applied than was needed in many fields. I saw few weeds and disease levels were low. There was some second-generation European corn borer damage, but it didn’t appear to be very serious. No GMO events are approved for insect control or herbicide tolerance.

With few grain drying and storage facilities on or near farms, harvesting and handling grain is very different than in the US. A majority of the crop is harvested as ears, either by hand or with ear harvesters. The farming company I visited had some 20 mechanical harvesters, all but two of which were for ears only. Ears are typically dried by laying them out on concrete, and ears for home use (feeding chickens and pigs for family use is common) are stored in small cribs. Commercial quantities of corn are dried on the ear then shelled. Without drying facilities, harvesting with a combine for grain this has to wait until grain moisture is below 20%. The government is the main buyer of commercial quantities of corn, and the price is adjusted for the amount of grain moisture.

With low land and equipment costs and prices that have been higher than the world price, corn has been a very profitable crop for Chinese farmers. It will continue to be profitable, but lower crop prices will decrease profitability. The fields I saw are proof that Chinese farmers know well how to grow corn, and they are able to get good yields given the limitations of their soil and weather.

## “Check Your Calendar!”

# October

13	Prime Timers	10:00 AM
21	YAL Cookout	7:00 PM

*Note: Most Committees do **NOT** meet in October - Have a **SAFE** harvest season!!!*

## November

4	Women’s Committee/YAL Organic AG Presentation	6:30 PM
10	Prime Timers	10:00 AM
11	HARVEST SCHOLARSHIP GALA	6:00 PM
14	Women’s Committee	9:30 AM
15	Legislative Committee	7:30 AM
15	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 AM
17	Full Board	6:30 PM
24, 25	Happy Thanksgiving - Office Closed	

## September Report

### President, Chris Murray

The combines have been rolling now for several weeks and we are constantly reminded of the great blessings we encounter as we go through harvest. It brings things into perspective including some of the great efforts the Ag community brings to the table within our communities. We may not be a huge part of the population as farmers, but our industry is the backbone that keeps everything running.

There seems to be a great curiosity among the people I talk to about agriculture; this is a great time of year to tell our story. If you have the opportunity to host someone from town, take a ride in a tractor or combine to fill in some answers to their questions. Agriculture has changed drastically in the last ten years and people are amazed when stepping into the cab, in awe at the amount of technology that’s in these pieces of machinery.

In closing I encourage everyone to stay safe, take the extra minute to evaluate your surroundings. The industry has continually tried to make everything safer over the years. The amount of injuries each year is astounding so please take every precaution you can to finish with a safe harvest.

Safe Harvest,  
Chris Murray

## FB ACT

### The Importance of Calling Your Legislators

By: David Fulton

For 10 years Illinois Farm Bureau has been trying to engage members, said Andrew Larson of Illinois Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs and Commodities. Larson explained that this program has the potential to grow, noting a trend from 2/10% - 1% members that have engaged in this program. Over the duration of the last several years, FB ACT continues to become more aggressive online, with more added tools to utilize, says Larson. A new goal that has been set in place by the Illinois Agriculture Association (IAA) Board is to motivate 5% of all voting M members (approximately 5,000 members) to join FB ACT and participate in calls to regulators. This benchmark is put in place to promote calls to our legislators to ask them to support, or oppose, an item in legislation.

Since the start of this effort, said Larson, the calls have helped change legislators opinions. Larson encourages all Farm Bureau members to sign up and join FB ACT. Illinois Farm Bureau has provided three avenues to do so: online at ilfb.org, the ILFB smartphone app, and over the phone, call your county office to sign up. The latest data has shown current members, who are signed up to receive these FB ACT alerts, are not acting or calling their legislators. It takes local leadership in the counties to encourage fellow members to become active, said Larson. On behalf of Illinois Farm Bureau, they ask all members that participate to ask family members to call legislators and create a network so the impact can be greater; these calls affect everyone.

## DOES IT MATTER?

## WHAT FB ACT DOES AND HOW IT WORKS

Commentary Submitted by: Paulette Brock, Women’s Committee Chair

The Women’s Committee of the Champaign County Farm Bureau have grown to appreciate the power of consensus in making our voice heard on behalf of agriculture. We have “put our hand to the task” of calling our legislators about salient political issues that impact farming. When WOTUS emerged as an issue, every single member of the Women’s Committee wrote a letter to the EPA voicing our concerns. We have also been faithful in calling our legislators when the Illinois Farm Bureau requests calls to influence a vote, either on the national or state level. We feel we have made a difference through our action, and we have been engaged in learning about important issues at the same time.

Our committee learned it is very easy to become involved. At our meeting we completed an FB Act form, given to us by our county FB manager, Brad Uken. It began the process to let our IL Farm Bureau office know we want to receive notifications from the state office when legislative action needs to be taken. The notification comes either by a phone call, an email, a text message, or all three, depending on our own choice when we completed the form.

When a request comes to us from the state office, it is usually important to call immediately, as an important vote is about to be taken. We are fortunate as an organization to have watchdogs that inform us when legislation impacting farmers is pending. How often have significant changes in your personal life been made via legislation when you were sleeping? It is likely you simply were not informed, and your voice in the matter was not heard!

Continue FB ACT on Page 6.....

# FFA Update

Mahomet/Seymour FFA Chapter

The Mahomet-Seymour FFA Chapter is proud to announce that we have three members competing at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN this October!

In order to qualify for National Convention, each individual must win at their respective section, district, and state competitions. Our Officer Team will be accompanying our three individuals and are excited to support them.

**(Above Left):** Madison Mitchell, Mahomet-Seymour’s FFA President, will be competing in the Job Interview competition representing Illinois as the state winner. Madison also is an Assistant Director at Mahomet Ag Supply which is a feed store out of our high school. Our store is proudly partnered with Prairieland Feeds of Savoy and is run by our school’s Ag Business class. She has received first hand experience for job interviews because the ag business does mock interviews.

**(Above Right):** Maddie Fugate, Mahomet-Seymour’s FFA Secretary, will be competing with her Agriscience Project and representing Illinois as the prepared public speaking winner. This year’s project is focused on swine safety.

**(Below):** Kat Blakeslee, Mahomet’s FFA Treasurer, will be competing for National Talent. She will be singing various songs over the three day convention along with playing her guitar. Kat will also be competing in the National Anthem Contest to sing the anthem at the final session live.



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

.....UAS Continued from page 1

### Did you know? You must keep your drone within sight!

According to the FAA’s Fact Sheet - Small Unmanned Aircraft Regulations (Part 107) “The small UAS operator manipulating the controls of a drone should always avoid manned aircraft and never operate in a careless or reckless manner. You must keep your drone within sight... Neither you nor a visual observer can be responsible for more than one unmanned aircraft operation at a time.”

### Did you know? Your flights must be limited to daylight hours.

Citing the FAA’s Fact Sheet

## What’s New in Agriculture at Parkland?



Parkland students, Jack Gady and Kaitlin Blackford, talking to local high school students.

The semester has begun and our students are getting back into the swing of things. Recently, we have elected our newest Phi Alpha Chi (Agriculture Club) team, provided produce through our sustainable garden for the Food Pantry on campus, our Ag Business/Farm Management students took a trip Southern IL and we are collaborating with Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association in our Land Lab for cover crop and rotation studies. We are excited about all of the activities our students participate in and the opportunities they embrace. Many of our students are also working on internships to gain the hands-on work experience needed upon graduation.

**News to Share:**

**Phi Alpha Chi (Agriculture Club)** – our newest elected officer team has been active thus far. The team as well as several of our agriculture students met with 70 local high school students at the Rantoul Air Force base to talk about careers in agriculture and opportunities at Parkland.

**Kaitlin Blackford** (Paxton) – President

**Callie Wildman** (Oakley) – Vice President

**Hannah McDonald** (Mount Vernon) – Secretary

**Allie McKellip** (Royal) – Treasurer



Parkland Ag student, Hannah McDonald and Monica Monroe picking sweet corn.

(Part 107) “You can fly during daylight or in twilight (30 minutes before official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset, local time) with appropriate anti-collision lighting. Minimum weather visibility is three miles from your control station. The maximum allowable altitude is 400 feet above the ground, and higher if your drone remains within 400 feet of a structure. The maximum speed is 100 mph (87 knots).”

**Find out more about additional requirements for piloting unmanned aircraft systems at [www.faa.gov/uas](http://www.faa.gov/uas)**

Not finding the answers to your questions? Check out the FAQ tab! It is a great resource!

Sustainable Garden – horticulture as well as agriculture students have worked in our sustainable garden and land lab to provide produce (tomatoes, squash, potatoes, onions and sweet corn) to the Wesley Food Pantry on Parkland’s campus. Overall, the Food Pantry has received over 450-lbs of produce. Fall plantings have begun including broccoli and kale. Landscape and horticulture equipment operation class removed sod and rototilled in preparation for doubling the size of the garden for next spring.



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CCFBFOUNDATION.COM



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## 9th Harvest Gala to Celebrate Foundation's 30th Anniversary

Friday, November 11th  
Pear Tree Estate

2150 County Road 1000 East - Champaign, IL

5:30 Silent Auction & Cocktails  
7:00 Dinner by LA Gourmet  
7:30 Live Auction & Dessert Auction



### How to Register

Online Registration Available NOW at  
[www.ccfbfoundation.com/gala](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com/gala)

Or register at the CCFB office at  
801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A  
Champaign, IL 61821  
or by phone at (217) 352-5235

Your \$60 ticket includes dinner, drinks, and a night full of fun  
in support of Foundation and the future of agriculture.

*A limited number of tickets are available - order TODAY!*

## Earth Partners & Champaign Schools Visit the Farm

Connecting Food to the Farm: The Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation's Earth Partners Ag Literacy volunteers helped to educate the 3rd grade classes from Champaign Unit 4 Schools about farms, food and conservation in September. In total, nearly 900 students from 32 classrooms learned about how food is connected to family farms, like those right here in Champaign County. We owe a big "Thank You!" to the 35 volunteers who took time to help education these students about agriculture! This program also wouldn't be possible without our friends at Parkland College's Agriculture and Horticulture Department for helping us host this great event!



**Harvesting & Threshing:** At the Combine station, Champaign County Farm Bureau 2nd Vice President, Jason Crider shares information with the students about how today's combines can harvest 900+ bushels of corn per hour. New machinery and advancing technology allows farmers to harvest crops at the peak time.



**Tractors, Technology & Careers in Agriculture:** Nancy Strunk, CCFB Board member and Equine Committee Chairwoman, spent her morning educating students about tractors and technology at Parkland College. In addition to being able to sit in a tractor, Nancy shared with the students about how farmers use tractors on their farms, as well as how careers in agriculture are on the rise due to increasing technological applications!



**Planting Knowledge:** Patricia Titus, Illini FS Safety & Environmental Specialist and farmer, teaches students at the Planters and Sprayers station. Pat explains how a planters work and how why crops need food called fertilizer.



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### KIDS BACK TO SCHOOL? INTRODUCE MONEY LESSONS

**Get Free Financial Education Materials From COUNTRY Financial**

It's that time of year, when activities pick up and homework kicks in. In between the hustle and bustle of the new school season, why not initiate conversations with the kids in your life about how money works? "Kids need to have some form of economic and personal finance understanding, they need a foundation for future money lessons," said Melissa Libert, Financial Education Program Manager at COUNTRY Financial. "In the midst of all their other learning and extracurricular activities, why not pull money into the mix?"

#### Financial lessons in the classroom and beyond

No matter their age or grade level, different levels of money lessons can be introduced and shared. One way that can be done is through curriculum from our partner organization, Financial Beginnings. It's a group geared toward increasing the financial literacy of youth and young adults. They educate young people using COUNTRY Financial sponsored materials that can be ordered online from our website, for free to be used in classrooms, by youth groups and more.

#### No time for workbooks?

If you're too swamped to take on another workbook, don't sweat it. Just start a conversation with your kids about money, keep it simple and casual.

#### The following are themes you can use to get the conversation going:

**Travel agent in training:** Encourage your kids to plan a weekend family outing. Help them set a budget and guidelines. Then work with your kids to execute their plan within the budget provided (e.g., pay for gas, purchase tickets, food, etc.) for the day and help them keep track of expenses along the way. To market with money: During your weekly trips to the grocery store, set aside a small budget just for your child. Encourage them to pick out something new and healthy to try. Use dollars and coins for the sales transaction and let them count out the money needed to cover the cost.

**Chef du jour:** Let your kids be executive chefs! Help them set a budget for a home cooked meal, select a menu and grocery list and then shop for ingredients. Guide them in the measuring and counting process as they prepare a one-of-a-kind family meal.

**Save for a rainy day:** Inspire your kids to save their pennies. Track their growing pool of coins on a chart inside your home. Offer them an incentive, consider matching whatever they save. "Without even the smallest grasp of these concepts, kids become at risk of failing to fully participate in their financial health, and of being easily overwhelmed by the complexities of today's economy," said Melody Bell, Executive Director at Financial Beginnings. "It's crucial they learn early on how money comes and goes in their household." Keep the learning going with these easy ideas and you're sure to have a money smart kid on your hands in no time! To order free materials to help inspire and guide lessons, head to [www.countryfinancial.com](http://www.countryfinancial.com). In the meantime, follow other personal finance topics COUNTRY Financial is covering by heading to Twitter @helloCOUNTRY.

### A PLANNED APPROACH TO COLLEGE SPENDING

#### How to Save While Pursuing a Diploma

College may be a time to spread your wings, but students don't have to spread their wallets too wide to enjoy the ride. If they stick to a spending plan, their financial futures may be better off.

#### Let's talk costs

According to collegeboard.org, the costs for tuition, fees, room and board during the 2015-2016 school year were around \$19,548 for a public four-year, in-state college or university. That's a 3.3 percent increase over the 2014-2015 school year. "The costs of tuition and fees and room and board are high and rising. They're even higher for students and families who choose out-of-state and private institutions," said Joe Buhrmann, manager of financial security at COUNTRY Financial®. "Why not recommend students live frugally during their college years in order to limit their dependence on loans and other debt-ridden avenues once they're out on their own."

#### Six tips for simple living in college:

1. Live below your means. With a heavy school load and extracurricular activities, students may not have much time to create and follow a budget, so why not follow one simple rule? Live below your means.
  2. Stick to dorm life. Sure a shared off campus apartment may seem glamorous, but why not urge your student to stick to the dorms if it means saving some cash. Quarters close to class could also mean they'll hoof it more often and lean less on a car or public transportation.
  3. Choose a meal plan. Dining out every meal or cooking on their own may seem like a dream, but in reality, each meal not accounted for can add up to big bucks. Urge them to save on extra expenses by eating in a dining hall.
  4. Avoid Greek life. Before they decide to go Greek students may want to consider the costs of buying into their campus social scene. Annual dues, fees, housing and food can tack on thousands of dollars more to their annual tab. That doesn't include the costs of T-shirts touting their Greek letters.
  5. Work-in time for a part-time job. It might be hard to balance a school/work schedule, but if your student needs some cash to supplement their lifestyle, why not urge them to try to land an easy job on the side. Waiting tables or a paid internship can add up big in terms of job experience and life lessons.
  6. Skip out on spring break. Sun and sand may sound amazing, but if money is tight, students should avoid costly breaks on the beach. Why not suggest they do some good for others through volunteer opportunities instead. These experiences can cost far less and can enhance their future résumé.
- "College and university life is almost guaranteed to be a great experience no matter the cost," said Buhrmann. "Why not err on the conservative spending side and encourage your student to choose a less costly path towards earning their degree." Want to follow other finance topics COUNTRY Financial is covering? Follow us on Twitter @helloCOUNTRY or read our blog, [countryfinancialsecurityblog.com](http://countryfinancialsecurityblog.com).



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MARK THORNSBROUGH,  
GENERAL MANAGER

## 2017 Nutrient Application Decisions

By: Dr. Howard Brown

It will soon be time to make decisions about nutrient applications for the 2017 corn crop. Here are some considerations when making fall fertilizer decisions.

**Help minimize the environmental impact of applied P fertilizer** on local surface waters by minimizing soil erosion. Most of the P that finds its way into our streams, lakes, rivers, and the Gulf of Mexico originates from sediment (soil moving with water). While producers cannot stop all sources of soil erosion, any effort to minimize off-site movement will help minimize the loss of P as well as other nutrients and loss of vital soil attributes (tilth, structure, etc.). Whether filter strips or buffer strips, no-till or conservation-till, the use of cover crops or implementation of a conservation plan, any conservation effort should improve water quality for everyone. In a time of low commodity prices, preserving the warehouse of stored nutrients within our natural resource (soil) is vital for both economic and environmental sustainability of production agriculture. We lose much more than P when soil is lost from the field. Visit with your local SWCD or NRCS specialist for more information about cost-share programs that support the adoption of conservation practices.

**Consider making fall phosphorus and potassium applications soon after harvest.** The phosphorus (P) fertilizer sources available to producers in Champaign County are at least 90%+ water soluble. A significant rain event (greater than 1 inch) soon following an application of P fertilizer (within 24-48 hours) may solubilize some of the applied nutrient, allowing it to move within and possibly out of the field with water runoff. Fall application of P and K are an accepted management practice. Large rain events are less frequent following harvest, providing more time for the P to be fixed by the soil. Within a week or two after application, most of the applied P fertilizer becomes fixed making it less vulnerable to loss as soluble P with surface water runoff.

**Avoid making fertilizer applications on frozen and/or snow covered soil** unless fertilizing a winter grain, forage or cover crop. Frozen and/or snow covered soil makes it less likely that the applied fertilizer will become fixed, allowing it to remain in a soluble form, increasing the vulnerability of field loss with any significant rain event or period of snow melt experienced over the winter months. Don't believe it? Take a water sample from the ditch of a

field that was winter-applied. Have it checked for the nutrient applied. What is discovered may provide an economic reason to avoid such a practice.

**Consider using TSP in priority watersheds.** If you farm within a priority watershed where N is an impairment to water quality, consider using Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) as a phosphorus source this fall. Other P sources (ammoniated P), such as Diammonium Phosphate (18% N), Mono-ammonium Phosphate (11% N), and Micro-Essentials (MES and MESZ (12% N)) all contain a percentage of N. Research shows there is a probability that up to 60% of the applied N may be lost before the end of April (before crop growth). If your N management plan allows for the N applied with ammoniated P, it may be lost prior to crop utilization possibly reducing harvest yield (economic loss). If the N in ammoniated P is not considered, even if the N is a cheap source, it is an unaccounted expense if not credited as part of the N management plan, needlessly reducing profitability. Regardless of the cost of N found in ammoniated P, why not use TSP and make a stewardship statement. Ask your local Illini FS Crop Specialist about the availability of TSP for fall application.

**Illini FS is committed to help producers improve environmental stewardship.** Although little TSP is manufactured in the United States, it can be imported when the demand is anticipated. Illini FS has anticipated such a demand and has made the commitment to make it available to producers this fall. Visit with your local Illini FS crop specialist about using TSP as your fall P source. If you farm within a watershed that is impaired by N, make an environmental stewardship statement. Consider using TSP this fall.

**Nitrogen management has improved over the past 5 years.** Nearly all producers that apply anhydrous ammonia this fall will use a nitrification inhibitor (N-Serve), and most will be making multiple applications to provide N for the upcoming crop. Keep in mind the following practices when finalizing Nitrogen Management Systems for the 2017 corn crop:

**Fall Applications.** Wait for bare soil temperatures to reach 50 degrees before starting any fall application (usually after the first week of November). The purpose of a cool soil is to slow down microbial activity, minimizing the chance of the applied stable ammonium-N fertilizer being converted to the unstable nitrate-N form (called nitrification). As long as the applied N remains ammonium-N, it cannot be denitrified (lost from

a warm, saturated soil) or leached (moved away with soil water). The soil temperature is anticipated to continue cooling once it reaches 50° F at 4 inches, creating a sustained period of cold soil and reduced (stopped) microbial activity. If soils warm back up late fall or early winter, microbial activity can transform the ammonium-N to nitrate-N before the normally wet early spring, increasing the probability of loss before plant utilization.

**The purpose of using a nitrification inhibitor (N-Serve)** with fall anhydrous ammonia is not to delay nitrification in the fall, but to delay nitrification in early spring. Many of our East-Central soils tend to be wet and saturated early into the next cropping year. Making a fall application of anhydrous ammonia when the soils are cooling (slowing microbial activity), preserves the protection for the spring when N loss by denitrification (conversion of nitrate-N to a gas) is more common. Making fall anhydrous ammonia applications prematurely, while soils are still warm, will likely limit the value of the inhibitor the following spring when it is most needed.

**Select the appropriate rate of N to apply.** Use the Maximum Return To Nitrogen calculator, supported by the University of Illinois. Google "nrate" and the first website listed should be the calculator's home page (cnrc.agron.iastate.edu). Even if another N recommendation system is used, visit the calculator's web page and compare recommendations. It may be surprising how close other recommendations are to the MRTN approach, and if not, it may be worthwhile exploring the reason why they are not. With N being a part of the 2nd greatest input cost, it is worth the time investment.

**Consider reducing any fall N application to 50 - 60% of the planned total.** Even with following accepted management practices (50°F at 4 inches and use of nitrification inhibitors) soils can prematurely warm after application and N can be lost prior to plant utilization. Without knowing environmental conditions after fall N applications, why not hedge environmental risk of N loss by making multiple N applications. It is not about reducing production costs, but about Maximizing N utilization, Optimizing yield potential, and Minimizing environmental impact. It is all about focusing on M.O.M.

**Consider participating in**

**an N Rate Study,** whether this fall or early next spring (or both). An N Rate Study is a research-based project, in conjunction with the University of Illinois and the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association (IFCA), that allows the producer to learn how much N was required to achieve optimum corn yield in his field, using his cultural practices and his selection of crop genetics (hybrid). The studies are easy to set-up using application and harvest equipment technologies and the results will help participating producers make better N management decisions in future seasons. With N being part of the 2nd greatest input cost, why not make an investment into learning how to better manage it? Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist to learn more about how to participate, especially producers that farm within a priority watershed.

**Special Note:** The first watershed-specific N recommendation system in the Midwest is anticipated to be released within the Lake Springfield Watershed this fall, once the harvest data is collected. The watershed-specific Maximum Return To Nitrogen (MRTN) recommendation system will be made possible by the diligent effort and contributions of Springfield City Water, Light and Power, Dr. Emerson Nafziger (Crop Sciences at U. of I.), Dan Schaefer (IFCA), ag retailers within the watershed, and participating producers.

**Utilize N-TRACKER as an N management tool.** A more recent version of N-WATCH, N-TRACKER, designed by Illini FS, allows a producer to track the dynamics of Plant-Available N (PAN) in the upper 2 feet of the soil profile over time. It is a tool that provides a way to see the influence of water, soil temperature, N applications, and corn growth at a specific field location at specific times during the cropping year. It is a tool that brings to life the N Cycle at the farm gate, and a tool that helps a producer learn more about the behavior of his 2nd greatest input cost, applied N fertilizer. Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist to learn more about N-TRACKER or how to sign-up for a site in 2017. N-WATCH sites have been utilized in over 2,600 farm fields from Western Iowa to Southern Ontario, Canada since 2013.

i Registered Trademark of Dow AgroSciences.

ii Registered Trademark of GROWMARK, Inc.

### Trick or Treats? with the Prime Timers on October 13 starting at 10 a.m. Program:

Galapagos Islands - Joan Jordan

Music by:  
Ryan Express



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:  
November 10  
December 8

## End of the Year Membership

### Signed by Board of Directors

**Total M Members signed by the Board: 72**

### Signed by COUNTRY Financial

**Total Associate Members signed by Reps: 659  
Total M Members signed: 25**

**“M” Quota: 2503  
MIGS as of 7/31/16: 2450**

**New Members (7/31): 52  
Reinstatements: 5  
Reclassifications: 4  
Delinquents: -8**

**Quota Obtained: 0**

**Total Quota (New Apps): 692  
New Apps as of 7/31/16: 645**

**New Members (7/31): 123**

**Quota Obtained: 76+**

### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

(USPS 099-840)  
801 N. Country Fair Drive, Ste. A, Champaign, IL 61821

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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 Bulla

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

### Champaign County Farm Bureau Christmas in Branson November 17 - 20

Kick off your Holiday season in Branson with a 4/day, 3/night Holiday trip.

**Day #1 - Thursday, November 17:** You will depart Champaign at 7:30 a.m. We will make a stop for lunch \* and then stop at Russel Stover's Outlet

and St. James Winery on the way to Branson. You will arrive at the Grand Country Inn around 4:00 p.m.

where you will check in and have a dinner buffet\* at the hotel before going to the Grand Country Jubilee show.\*

**Day #2 - Friday, November 18:**

You will start the day with breakfast\* at the hotel and followed by a morning show with Doug Gavriel.\* After lunch\* you will see the Texas Tenors.\* You will enjoy Dinner at Pasghetti's Italian Restaurant\* before

going to see Moses at Sight and Sound.\*

**Day #3 - Saturday, November 19:**

Breakfast\* at the hotel and then you will have the morning and lunch (on your own) to yourself to do some shopping or go down to Old Town Branson or Branson Landing, visit another winery or just spend time visiting before the Daniel O'Donnell show\* and Dinner at Jackie B Good's\* and then the Duttons show.\*

**Day #4 - Sunday, November 20:**

Before traveling home you will have breakfast\* at the hotel and Church ; with a couple of rest stops and lunch stop.

**Cost per person: Dbl-\$625**

Tour includes: Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Professional Driver, Hotel Accommodations, Luggage Handling, 8 meals and 6 shows. All attractions and meals in bold print and marked with an asterisk\*

### 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  
-HOUCHE'S HEATING & A/C GROUP  
-ILLINI CONTRACTOR'S SUPPLY  
-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  
-RANTOUL PIZZA PUB  
-REFINERY HEALTH CLUB  
-ROSATI'S PIZZA & CATERING  
-SAFELY FILED  
-SERVICE MASTER  
-SHOOTER'S BAR AND GRILL - RANTOUL  
-RED WING SHOES  
-SIDNEY DAIRY BARN  
-SUNSINGER WINERY  
-SULLIVAN-PARKHILL AUTOMOTIVE  
-TICKETSATWORK.COM  
-WYLDEWOOD CELLARS  
-ZA'S RESTAURANT**

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





CRP - POLLINATOR HABITAT  
WORKSHOP

Date: Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Time: 10:00 am – 11:30am

Light refreshments served at 9:30am

Where: Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium on Country Fair Drive

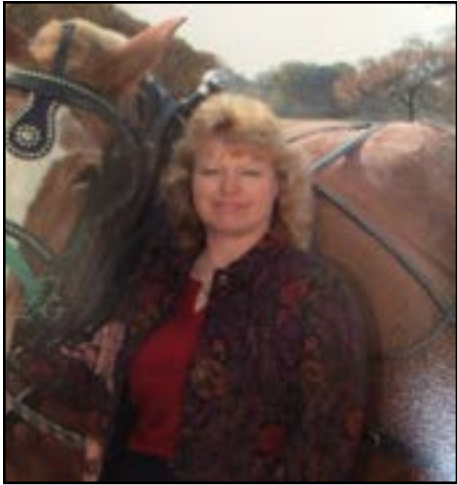
Speakers: Jason Bleich - Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist  
Bruce Stickers - Champaign County Pheasants Forever Habitat Chairman  
Tim Lyons - University of Illinois PhD Candidate

Workshop Topics:

- Planting Methods / Site Preparation
- What to Expect After Planting Pollinator Habitat
- Maintenance Options & Mid-contract Management
- Current CRP Payments & Incentives
- Pheasants Forever Assistance
- U of I Pheasant Research Findings
- Identifying Habitat Needs for Pheasants



We want to answer YOUR questions  
about this new and thriving  
program!  
No RSVP needed. Any questions please  
call 217-855-0496



Illini FS Ag  
Financing Programs

Want to free up some cash? Vonnie Davis, Illini FS, is here to work with you. Vonnie is an East Central Illinois native, born and raised in south-west Edgar County on a grain and livestock farm. Vonnie continues to live in Edgar County and covers the Illini FS, five county area, working with the agriculture industry to provide financing.

According to Vonnie, “Agri-Finance is a program that allows Illini FS to finance the products and services that we offer. It allows farmers to prepay for products and not pay for them until they sell that year’s grain.” Several financing options are available to Illini FS customers.

- Take part in a reward program called “The Dollar per Acre” program which rewards loyal customers by buying down their interest rate by 1%-2% when they reach qualifying purchase levels.
- A 0% Seed Program is available right now. This program starts August 1, 2016. Seed must be booked by November 22, 2016 in order to qualify. You can take advantage of an 8% seed discount and 0% financing until March 1, 2017 or get a 5% seed discount and 0% financing until November 1, 2017.
- Energy programs are available for those who purchase fuel, LP, tires, oils and lubricants and purchases at our Fuel 24 locations. These items can also be included in the full-line loan that covers all farm products and services as well. The variable rate for fuel loans is currently at 6.0%. In most cases, these are unsecured loans.

Illini FS does have fixed rate financing for structures (grain bins and buildings) in the form of a loan or leasing options are also offered. Illini FS can provide leases for farm and commercial customers on buildings and grain bins purchased through the Illini FS Construction Services department. Leases can also be written for new or used farm equipment purchased other places from individuals and dealers. With a lease, the payment is 100% tax deductible.

- Cash rent and discretionary financing is available when you apply for an input loan. So in most cases, the customer would not necessarily need an operating line at the bank. You can still use your bank if you choose and take advantage of our financing programs. We strive to offer flexible options to help our customers farming operations be successful.

Financing programs are another way that Illini FS is trying to better serve their customers. For more information please contact Vonnie Davis at 217-722-7219 or email vdavis@illinifs.com.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ORGANIC AGRICULTURE!!

On November 3rd at 6:30 PM - CCFB Auditorium

Harold Wilken and Angie Coxworth will conduct a presentation on organic farming.

A sandwich supper will be served, Sponsored by CCFB Women’s Committee and CCFB YAL’s  
RSVP REQUIRED - CALL: 352-5235

Annual Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

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a. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	2600	2600
b. Paid Circulation stated on PS Form 3541	383	383
1. Mailed Outside County Paid Subscriptions	1914	1986
2. Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions	0	0
3. Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other paid distribution outside USPS	0	0
4. Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS	2297	2309
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), (4))	0	0
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution stated on PS Form 3541	0	0
1. Free or Nominal rate Outside County Copies	0	0
2. Free or Nominal rate in-County Copies	0	0
3. Free or Nominal rate Copies Mailed at other Classes	48	52
4. Free or Nominal rate Distribution Outside the Mail (carriers or other means)	48	52
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15 d (1), (2), (3), (4))	2345	2361
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	255	239
g. Copies Not Distributed	2600	2600
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)	97.95%	97.80%
i. Percent Paid ((15c/15f) times 100)		

16. If total circulation includes electronic copies, report that circulation. a. Paid electronic copies: 0 b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15C) + Paid Electronic Copies: 2396 average, 2379 single. c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15F) + Paid Electronic Copies: 2436 average, 2418 single. d. Percent Paid (Both Print and electronic Copies): 98.36% average, 98.39% single. 17. Publication of Statement of Ownership: Publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required and will be printed in the 10/01/2015 issue of this publication. 18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Bradley Uken, Manager/Editor. Date 9/4/2015. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that any one who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).