



# Champaign County Farm Bureau News

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

May, 2017

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

## Illinois Farm Bureau & Affiliates Youth Conference



300 FFA members from 78 Illinois counties attended the 2017 Illinois Farm Bureau® & Affiliates Youth Conference, April 10-11 at the Embassy Suites, East Peoria. Pictured (left to right) are: Sophia Hortin, Lindsey Decker, Michael Sage, Jaden Klaus, Noah Benedict, Emma Carmien, Cole Woodmansee, Carson Robinson, Collin Rohl, Alyssa Wilcoxen. "Maximize", the theme of this year's conference, offered FFA mem-

bers in their junior year of high school a unique opportunity for career and personal development. This year's attendees got the opportunity to network with representatives from community colleges, universities, agriculture commodity groups, and the Illinois Farm Bureau and its family of companies at an Opportunity Fair. The conference also provided a series of breakout sessions that focused on personal growth, team building, advocacy, and leadership development. Participants also brought 598 non-perishable food items to the conference, which were donated to Midwest Food Bank as part of the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders' Harvest for All program. The annual two-day conference is sponsored by Illinois Farm Bureau and its affiliated companies, which include GROWMARK, COUNTRY Financial, Prairie Farms Dairy and the IAA Credit Union.

### Emma Carmien Fisher FFA

The Farm Bureau Youth Conference theme was Maximize. Farm Bureau Youth Conference did just that. What I learned from this conference, will forever stay with me. I learned how to maximize my chapter's potential, as well as mine own potential. I learned new leadership and team building skills that will help me inside FFA and in the future. We also

## Explore the Great State of Illinois



Join Champaign County Farm Bureau members on May 10 as they travel to Springfield, IL. This one day adventure includes deluxe bus accommodations, a stop at Freddy's Frozen Custard, and several stops to get your fill of Illinois history! Trip participants will have the opportunity to visit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum & Library, the Old State Capitol & the Illinois State Military Museum.

### FACTS TO KNOW

#### First Stop

#### - Tour of the Old State Capitol

- The Old State Capitol is a reconstruction of Illinois' fifth statehouse, the first to be located in Springfield.
- The building served as the seat of state government and a center of Illinois political life from 1839 to 1876.
- The Old State Capitol was the scene of President Abraham Lincoln's final laying-in-state on May 3-4, 1865.

#### Second Stop

#### - Abraham Lincoln

#### Presidential Museum and Library

- Largest Presidential Museum encompassing 50,000 square feet.
- Enjoy a walk through experience divided into two parts including the pre-presidential years and the White House years.
- View special interactive exhibit "Cubs vs. Cards: The Rivalry" featuring sports memorabilia and original rel-

ics from each organization.

- Hat worn by Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood
- Cardinals Manager Whitey Herzog's chart tracking hitting trends
- Cardinal outfielder Vince Coleman's shoes

#### Third Stop

#### - Illinois State Military Museum

- Purpose is to "preserve, honor and display the legacy of the Illinois militia and the Illinois National Guard."
- Museum building also known as the Castle.
- Exhibits throughout the museum cover stories about the sacrifice and service made by Illinoisans serving in the military.
- View artifacts including:
  - Artificial leg of Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna
  - the wooden target board that President Abraham Lincoln used to test fire the Spencer rifle in 1863
  - a brass 1883 Colt Gatling Gun

#### Fourth Stop

#### - Freddy's Frozen Custard

- Freddy's features a full menu of ice cream options including shakes, cones, sundaes and more.

Time to learn more about this great state we live in! Join us on this informative and fun tour of our capital city! Cost per person: \$60 per person

played games lead by the Illinois State FFA officers that taught communication and other valuable skills that could be used inside and outside FFA to lead and maximize my chapter and community. I met so many new people through going to this conference. They Inspired me in so many ways. I learned about how some members plan to impact their chapter and com-

munity. We also talked about what they have already done within their chapter and community. Some of these ideas I want to implement into my chapter. I'm so glad that I attended Farm Bureau Youth Conference so I can Maximize my chapter, my community and my own potential.

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



The Importance of Maintaining a 911 Address Sign



Reflective 911 address signs help first responders find your home in case of an emergency. The Champaign County Farm Bureau provides signs for your home. Have you recently moved to a new home? Do you have a damaged 911 sign? Now is the time to replace or install a sign! The Champaign County Farm Bureau has been providing the community with this valuable service for several years. Brenda Wood, Champaign County Farm Bureau, says “Over

the years I have ordered hundreds of signs, sometimes working hand in hand with local fire departments to ensure citizens have these signs. All signs meet the standards established by emergency personnel as it pertains to size and reflect ability of the sign.” Call the CCFB Office to order your sign today at 217-352-5235.

**COST - \$15 – Members; Non Members \$25.** Minimal turnaround time! *Please note: Cost only includes sign...mounting is the responsibility of the individual.*



Give Your Driving Skills a TUNE-UP!  
Register for a Defensive Driving Course  
at Champaign County Farm Bureau!

Wednesday, May 24 and Thursday, May 25  
have been CANCELLED

This class has been rescheduled for  
**Monday, July 31 and Tuesday, August 1**  
**8:00 AM to Noon BOTH days!**



Champaign County Farm Bureau  
Auditorium: 801 N. Country Fair Drive

**The class in September has also been cancelled, due to time between classes**

“Check Your Calendar!”

May - 2017

11	Prime Timers	10 AM
16	Legislative - TBD	
17	Solar Meeting	6:30 PM
18	Full Board	6 PM
19	University of Illinois Baseball Game	5 PM
24 - 25	Defensive Driving - Cancelled	
24	YAL Social - Riggs Brewery	6 PM

June 2017

1	YAL	6:30 PM
5	Marketing Club	6 PM
8	Prime Timers	10 AM
12	Women’s Committee	9:30 AM
13	Legislative Meeting	7:30 AM
13	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 AM
15	Full Board	6 PM
16	Follow the Farmstead	
19	Lady Landowners	9 AM

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



May  
President’s Report  
2017

Chris Murray

As we moved out of February and March into spring, planting season became our focus in the county. The Farming practices have changed over the last ten years, from putting corn in the ground then waiting before switching over to soybean planting. That process has sped up over the last couple years and it is not real uncommon to see multiple planter’s run corn and soybeans almost simultaneous in the fields.

That being said, with a ten-day period in the middle of April, almost ninety percent of the corn got put in the ground and a lot of soybeans are planted too. Now we have come to a rain delay here at the end of the month. For many farmers, this rain was a good time to regroup and get ready for the next planting window.

The meetings have slowed in pace compared to February and March schedules, this does not mean that things have slowed to a halt in the office. We had some different meetings with different interests such as solar and wind projects looking at potential expansion in, and around, the county. I am personally looking forward to some of the great educational activities and summer camps for this summer, which we are always looking for help from volunteers. As a great way to stay involved, I am amazed at how much I learn just like the kids do from these activities. I hope everyone has a safe conclusion to planting and spraying season.

Sincerely,  
Chris Murray

Trying to Figure Out the Markets?  
There will NOT be a May meeting

June 5th - 6:00 PM  
Marketing Club

CCFB Auditorium  
Dean Killion - Premier Cooperative  
Eric Snodgrass - Agribile, INC.  
Dinner Provided, RSVP required

Join us for an evening at the Champaign County Farm Bureau to learn more about the market outlook and trends with Dean Killion, Premier Cooperative.

Premier Cooperative is an Illinois farmer owned cooperative providing agricultural commodities and energy products. We give the firststepintothe grainmarketingchannel. We offeroutstandingservice 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.

Eric Snodgrass, Agribile, INC. will be giving information for weather outlook for the 2017 growing season and providing details on weather patterns.

We forecast the future and help you make better decisions. Like many of you, we’re farmers. We’re fiercely independent. We believe that field data belongs to the grower. And we believe that good decisions come from good forecasts, tempered with experience.

A group from the American Midwest, Agribile is an exceptional team of agronomists, atmospheric scientists, and developers who share an awesome goal: Transform the future of farming.

We are helping growers realize the promise of big data and technology. We opened our doors in 2012 to provide growers with tools to increase productivity, efficiency and sustainability.





**Alyssa Wilcoxon**  
**St. Jpseph/Ogden FFA**

“At this year's Farm Bureau Youth Conference, I had the opportunity to complete team activities, go to a college fair, attend breakout sessions, and attend a dance. During this conference, I was fortunate enough to learn new information and bring back new ideas that I was able to share with my chapter. My favorite part of this conference was attending the breakout sessions. The state officers put on their own session. In this session, we played minute to win it style games and learned how to work as a team.

Another thing that I look forward to at many FFA events is reflection time. For reflections at FBYC, there were questions on posters all around the room and we got the chance to share answers to these questions. These questions really impacted me, I hope to bring back the ideas to make a difference in my chapter. I'd like to thank Farm Bureau for putting on this conference as well as Champaign County Farm Bureau for allowing me to attend. “



**Collin Rohl**  
**Heritage FFA**

“My name is Collin Rohl and I live on a grain farm around Homer. Recently I attended the Farm Bureau Youth Conference in East Peoria which teaches leadership and teamwork to FFA members from around the state. To begin with we were split up and put in groups of 8 at a table with kids our age from all corners of the state. I have been to other conferences like this in the years past and they all start out like this, but the way this one was different was that we didn’t just sit at our tables the whole time. The only time we were at our table was to eat or to listen to speakers, other than that we were free to attend seminars dealing with how to promote agriculture, how to be a better leader, working with others, and more.

What set this conference apart from others is that we got to move around and talk to different people and

make new friends as we see fit. Other conferences force you into uncomfortable situations and expect you to make friends and grow personally. The Farm Bureau brought in very high quality speakers that you would expect to see at much larger events. Also the food was really good and we got to go to Bass Pro after words. All in all this was a very well run event and thank you to the Farm Bureau for paying our way and making it all possible!”



**Sophia Hortin**  
**Fisher FFA Chapter**

“I had the privilege of attending the 2017 Illinois Farm Bureau Youth conference this past April 10-11. The theme for this year’s conference was MAXIMIZE and the conference did exactly that. Through a series of team building activities, workshops, and guest speakers, conference attendees learned to MAXIMIZE every aspect of their lives ranging from their leadership skills & ability to work with others, to their goals & plans for their future. As a Fisher FFA & Section 17 Officer, I can use these skills to MAXIMIZE my chapter, and community. As a future agricultural advocate I can also MAXIMIZE my positive impact for our industry.

I would like to thank the Illinois Farm Bureau, and our local Champaign County Farm Bureau, for the time, dedication, and investment you have put forth into FFA members and youth in agriculture. Having a support system like yours allows us build a firm foundation so that someday we can become successful individuals, team members, and community members. The opportunities you provide also give us the tools necessary for us to become positive future representatives and advocates for the agricultural industry. Thank You!”

**Noah Benedict**  
**Mahomet/Seymour FFA**

My name is Noah Benedict, and I am actively enrolled in our FFA chapter at Mahomet-Seymour. This April I was given the opportunity to attend the annual Farm Bureau Youth Conference. This was a great experience for me. I got to meet a new group of people I had never known before and thoroughly enjoyed meeting all of them. I was presented with various chances to improve my leadership abilities and I appreciated those chances very much.

The state officer team had a great couple days planned for us. I enjoyed everything from the breakout sessions to the dance later that evening. However, my favorite part was the reflection time at the end of the evening Monday. This was a very moving experience that really got me to think about how I can not only be better for my FFA chapter, but for my own life as well.

# Fisher FFA: Planting Seeds and Growing Minds

The Fisher FFA Chapter has been growing with new opportunities! A huge congratulations to the Fisher FFA Chapter on placing second at Section 17 Poultry CDE! They will be competing at State Poultry on Friday, April 28th. Many of our members also received individual awards at contest: Bethany Musick (10th), Alexis Hallden (8th), Emma Carmien (7th) and Sophia Hortin (5th). Other contributing members of the team were: Kindall Carter, James Dunham, and Nik Heiser.

Along with the State Poultry contest this month, the Fisher FFA Chapter was awarded with a “Community Improvement Grant” by Farm Credit Illinois. This grant is going to help Fisher FFA landscape around the Fisher welcome signs as you enter town. Fisher FFA will also be having a plant sale on Saturday, May 13th in the Fisher High School parking lot. All proceeds from this sale will go back to help the chapter grow!

Pictured below: Bailey Parks receiving the “Community Improvement Grant” from Farm Credit Illinois.



**Lindsey Decker & Carson Robinson**  
**Unity FFA**

The 2017 Farm Bureau Youth conference was an experience that I will never forget. At the conference, we were put in groups with other FFA members from across Illinois. Within our groups, we did icebreakers and team building activities. One of the highlights of the conference for me was the Infomercial challenge. As a group, we sent one member up to the front of the conference room, where they raced to pick up an item that we would have to make our own new product out of. My group ended up with a toilet cleaner, which after working as a group to come up with ideas, we decided that we would make it into a ‘torch n go’, a torch that would work in the rain. We all had to work together to come up with a script and to turn our toilet cleaner into the ‘torch n go’. It was a great experience getting to work with a new group of people, and getting to present our infomercial to the entire conference.

At FBYC, we could also attend breakout sessions and the college/career fair. Within the fair, we were able to speak to different colleges about what they offer, get information for different scholarships that are available, and learn about some career options after graduation. We also were able to attend four different breakout sessions. These

varied from how to advocate for agriculture on social media, to the Major State Officers and 4-H ambassadors teaching us teamwork and team building skills through different games, along with others. We heard from two keynote speakers, who shared with us to see others from all directions and always be positive. Overall, FBYC was a fun experience that helped me develop more skills to bring back to my chapter.



**Michael Sage**  
**St. Joseph/Ogden FFA**

I had such a great time at FBYC. I learned several skills at this conference including leadership skills, networking abilities, teamwork skills, and to great ideas to bring back new ideas for my chapter. One thing that I really enjoyed at the conference was the “Who are you? Who am I?” workshop. In this workshop an experiment was conducted where a story was read and you could either chose A or B as you went through the story. If you chose the wrong answer then you were out. Then, when about half the people were out the people who were out were informed of the answers then could try to get the people who were in to choose the right answer. It was interesting to see who trusted you and who didn’t this taught everyone a valuable lesson. You have to choose who you get your information from very wisely. Overall, this was one of my favorite conferences I’ve been to and would recommend it to anyone. Thank you to the Champaign County Farm Bureau for sponsoring us to attend this conference!





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**KIRK BULTA**  
Executive Director



**MYLA MUNRO**  
Earth Partners Coordinator

## Earth Partners' Summer Teacher Workshop to Focus on Food Science

By: Myla Munro

*Agriculture*  
**A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS**  
June 12-16, 2017  
8:30am-5:00pm

Location: Parkland College  
Registration Fee: \$150  
Credits Offered: 36 professional development  
hours or university credits available  
10 person minimum

For more information or to register, contact Myla Munro,  
217.352.5235 or myla@ccfarmbureau.com



Each summer, Earth Partners offers a week-long teacher workshop designed to increase our local teacher's knowledge of agriculture and to help them incorporate agricultural education activities into existing classroom curriculum. This year's Summer Ag Institute (SAI) will be held from June 12-16, 2017 at Parkland College. The workshop, Agriculture – A Recipe for Success, will highlight the connection between food science and agriculture. The resources and activities shared during the week are designed to bring math, science, social studies and language arts to life through the fun of agriculture curriculum. The programming that teachers will learn about can be integrated into current curriculum while satisfying the goals of Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards as students explore agriculture and the environment through hands-on activities. This summer's SAI will be filled with fun and engaging hands-on activities that teachers can take back and do with students in Champaign County classrooms. As part of the workshop, teachers will hear from experts in the field of agriculture and food sciences

to learn more about pollinators, nutrition and vegetable production. Each year our participants also have the opportunity to get out of the classroom setting and visit local farms and those businesses making an impact on agriculture. This year we've got stops booked at University of Illinois Food Science Laboratories, Curtis Orchard, Riggs Beer Company and Prairie Fruits Farms and Creamery!

As an added bonus, teachers have the opportunity to participate in this year's SAI for FREE should they wish to become an Earth Partner's Ag Champion - an Earth Partners' contact within their school district or teaching circle. The workshop also offers teachers the opportunity to gain course credit towards their degree from Aurora University or Parkland College. Teachers may also choose to receive professional development hours via a partnership with Education for Employment #330. For more information regarding credits please contact Myla Munro at the CCFB Foundation. For more information on the course or to request a registration packet, please call the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation Office or email Myla Munro, myla@ccfarmbureau.com.

## 2017 Foundation Scholars Announced

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation Board of Directors is proud to present the 2017-2018 Foundation Scholars! This impressive group of young leaders are pursuing degrees in agriculture and we are excited to provide encouragement and tuition assistance as they work to make their impact on our industry.

Of course our scholarship program would not be possible without the loyal support of our donors. We ask that as you celebrate our scholars, you also join us in thanking these dedicated individuals, and businesses, who partner with us to impact the lives of our scholars.

This year's application process was as competitive as ever, and we're proud to present the 31<sup>st</sup> class of CCFB Foundation Scholars! Learn more about each of our scholarship recipients throughout the year by following us on Facebook at facebook.com/CCFBFoundation.

### Jared Aden

Champaign County Farm Bureau Scholarship

### Natalie Bidner

Clarence & Alma Rayburn Scholarship

### Nathaniel Bidner

Richard & Gloria Rayburn Scholarship

### Jada Burr

Thomas Hausman Memorial Scholarship

### Tyler Cain

Christian Brothers Scholarship

### Madeline Cender

Mildred Luther Scholarship

### Austin Childers

Ben Louis Memorial Scholarship

### Max Daly

CCFB President's Scholarship

### Jenna Davis

Michael & Sinead Madigan Scholarship

### Jessica Devine

Champaign Women's Club Scholarship

### Wyatt Dozier

Jack & Marjorie Richmond Scholarship

### Ella Dunn

Jack & Patti Murray Scholarship

### Kinze Ehmen

Longview Bank Scholarship

### John "JT" Franey

Gary Grace Memorial Scholarship

### Maddie Fugate

Duane Strunk Memorial Scholarship

### Stanley Godia

Busey Bank Scholarship

### Hannah Hires

Clema Parker Memorial Scholarship

### Mitch Holmes

Premier Cooperative Scholarship

### Andrew Johnson

COUNTRY Financial Scholarship

### Anna Kanfer

William T. & Katheryn Luther Henderson Scholarship

### Riley Knott

Jennifer & Jackie Esworthy Memorial Scholarship

### Brendan Kuhns

Premier Cooperative Scholarship

### Kristen Kurtz

Joe & Sue Summerville Agricultural Scholarship

### Jennifer Lannon

Mildred Luther Scholarship

### Megan Magsamen

CCFB Women's Committee Scholarship

### Maggi Maxstadt

Marie Sitts Mitchell Memorial Scholarship

### Nathan Miller

The Anderson's Scholarship

### Madison Mitchell

Matthew Prather Memorial Scholarship

### Cole Mohr

Sun Prairie Seeds Scholarship

### Megan Myerscough

News-Gazette Farm Leader of the Year Scholarship

### Brent Pruitt

CCFB Young Ag Leaders Scholarship

### Matthew Raab

William T. & Katheryn Luther Henderson Scholarship

### Ashley Rice

Leslie Arps Memorial Scholarship

### Reese Richardson

Roger Gish Memorial Scholarship

### Isabella Ritz

Marguerite Winston Scholarship

### Calli Robinson

The Atkins Group Scholarship

### Josie Runck

Chester & Margaret Hiser Memorial Scholarship

### Matthew Schluter

Duane Ehler Memorial Scholarship

### Katey Silver

The Gifford State Bank Scholarship

### Claire Smith

Leslie Mitchell Memorial Scholarship

### Justin Smith

Louis Schwing Scholarship

### Alex Vermillion

Dale Cochran Scholarship

### Connor Wienke

Gerald Compton Memorial Scholarship

### Madison Wilson

Leslie Arps Memorial Scholarship

### Caleb Wood

Farm Credit Illinois Scholarship

### Hannah Young

CCFB 100th Anniversary Scholarship

## POLLINATOR PARTNERS



Through a grant provided by Illinois Ag in the Classroom, two local schools are being provided with both a pollinator plot & a kit of resources and activities by the Champaign County Farm Bureau & Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation. By creating a pollinator plot, teachers & students will utilize it to learn about bees & other pollinators. The kits that will be provided to the schools will deliver continued education in the classrooms.



## Time to Explore Propane Buying Options and Leak Checks

Did you know the average home uses 800 to 1,000 gallons of propane per year? Now is the time to plan ahead for your propane needs. Illini FS works with GROWMARK to set the average price of propane. This year’s prices reflect more volatility due to exports. Dave Rich, Illini FS Propane and Retail Marketing Manager, has been fielding a common question from several Illini FS customers asking “Why is propane higher this year than last year?” Dave Rich says “Things changed when the Panama Canal opened up in 2016. For example in January 2014 the U.S. exported 11 million barrels of propane per month compared to January 2017 exports averaging 33 million per month. The U.S. is exporting three times more propane this year which is driving up the cost. The US propane reserves are at a 3 year low at just under 40 million barrels.” Illini FS offers customers several buying options to fit everyone’s financial situation including

- Summer Fill – Illini FS will fill your tank May through August with deferred payment until September. This way it is full and ready to go in the fall!
- Even Pay – Even Pay allows customers to make monthly payments based on the average number of gallons used in an 11 month period. The months of April and May are used to make up any difference in usage.
- Contract Pricing – Customers can lock in a price! No minimum or maximum purchase required.

### Safety First

Illini FS performs leak checks on 15% of its propane customer base annually. A simple process requiring an appointment with the homeowner! Illini FS technicians shut off the tank, check the system, and ensure there are no leaks in the propane system. Leaks cause customers to lose gas and money. Leak checks are conducted free of charge. Illini FS is dedicated to maintaining equipment which includes repainting tanks and placing new decals, when needed! Interested in having a technician check your tank? Contact Illini FS today!

15 weeks of data	Domestic Demand mil bar/day	Exports mil bar/day	Production mil bar/day	Imports bar/day	Days of Supply	Total Stocks YTD mil bar
2017 YTD	1.356	1.002	1.713	182,000	35.7 days	39.6
2016 YTD	1.389	0.675	1.652	124,000	77.7 days	67.7
5 YR AVG	1.386	0.494	1.415	132,000	37.5 days	48.3

# Agronomy Update

By: Dr. Howard Brown

Conditions this Spring were ideal for black cutworm egg-laying. Be watchful of early signs of feeding. Look for pinholes in the young, unfurling corn leaves. Recently hatched black cutworms are small enough to only leave a small feeding spot. However, as the leaves unfurl it becomes obvious that the young cutworm ate through more than one spot on the leaf, leaving a symmetric holes on the same young unfurled leaf (Figure 1). Once feeding is noted (small holes) several days will have passed since the feeding. Carefully dig at the base of the plant and look closely for the larvae. The coloration will be similar to the soil so look carefully. Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist about treatment



Figure 1. University of Wisconsin Integrated Pest and Crop Management. May 20, 2014.

### ROTARY HOE AND EMERGENCE: HELP OR HURT?

Recent heavy rains have likely caused crusting and a challenge to seedling corn emergence. Using a rotary hoe to help with emergence may cause as much harm (if not more) than

good. Loosening the soil in an attempt to help struggling plants break-through a crust also loosens the soil around the base of plants that have emerged (Figure 3), causing the soil to dry a little deeper

than before using the rotary hoe. Since the corn plant’s permanent (nodal) root system will be established about ¾ inch below the soil surface, loosening the upper ½ inch may dry the soil around the node where the permanent root system will form, impairing its development until it rains and remoistens the soil (Figure 2). Give the corn plant a chance



Figure 3. Soil removed from base of corn plant by rotary hoe leaving area of nodal root development exposed.

to emerge on its own. If the plant cannot break through the crust it is likely that the rotary hoe cannot break the crust to help anyway. Where we want the hoe to help break a hard crust, it leaves a little divot. Where we don’t want the hoe to aggressively work, it goes in too deep. It can be frustrating.



Figure 2. Exposed node where permanent root system will form. Will not develop until covered with moist soil.





**Vann Parkin**  
Country Financial  
Agency Manager



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

# SPOTLIGHT

Champaign Agency Assistant

**Marcia Woolcott**



**Marcia Woolcott**  
Administrative Assistant  
Champaign Agency



**Dan Punkay**  
328-0023



**Travis Heath**  
352-4555



**Keith Garrett**  
485-3010



**Jessie DeHaan**  
352-3466



**Stan Ochs**  
352-3296



**Terry Hill**  
469-9800



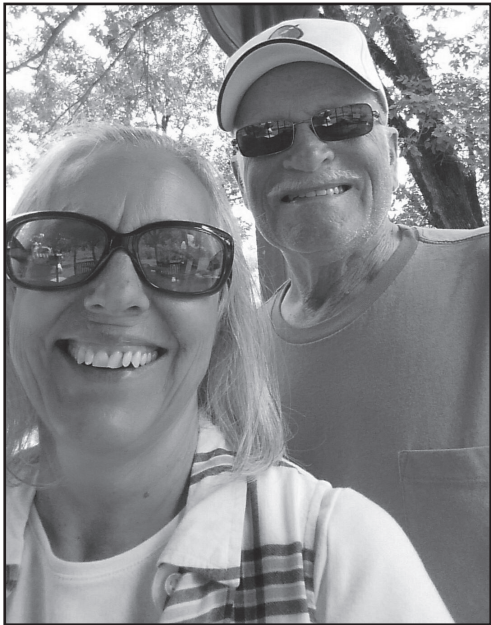
**Bret Kroencke**  
359-9391



**Nathan Hubbard**  
892-4479



**Jim Nelson**  
892-4479



You can find Marcia Wolcott working behind the scenes at the COUNTRY Financial Agency Office located in Champaign. Marcia has been the Agency Office Assistant (AOA) since September 2001. Marcia joined COUNTRY Financial in 1995 working with the claims department. After a company reorganization Marcia joined the Champaign County Farm Bureau for two years prior to becoming the AOA.

Marcia provides much needed information and help to the Champaign Agency COUNTRY Financial Representatives, takes care of clients that walk in her office door, and also provides training for other assistants. Marcia and her husband, Marlo, just celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and are the proud parents of 5 children. In her spare time, Marcia loves to spend time with her 12 grandchildren ranging in age from a newborn baby to a Marine stationed in Romania.

Marcia and Marlo love to camp and hit the road in their “27 foot condo on wheels.” Some favorite, past camping trips include camping at the Rockies and Gulf Shores. This year Marcia and Marlo are adding Mount Rushmore to the camping list and will be taking a non-camping vacation to Florida to celebrate their anniversary. Over the past 13 years you may have also seen Marcia behind the concession stands at the State Farm Center. A part time position that keeps her busy and lets her hear some great acts including Florida Georgia Line and (as this is being printed) Garth Brooks!

Does Marcia ever stay home? Well, when she does, you can find her outside digging in the dirt as “a gardener in progress!” A real people person, Marcia is involved with her church and volunteers her time teaching 4 year old Sunday school!



**Chuck Rippey**  
586-5030



**Chris Greenwold**  
355-8675



**Dan Duitsman**  
469-2033



**John May**  
352-3341



**Austin Beaty**  
217-352-0012



**Andrew Deedrich**  
359-3941



**Steve Derry**  
352-2655



**Scott Jackson**  
359-9335

## Study finds men significantly more likely to seek out financial advice than women

**Latest COUNTRY Financial survey finds gender gap with seeking advice on retirement planning and tax matters**

To coincide with Financial Literacy Month, COUNTRY Financial has released a new study that looks at what Americans seek financial guidance around the most. The findings from the COUNTRY Financial Security Index reveal notable differences between the way men and women seek out financial help, with men far more likely to seek out financial advice from others than women.

Interestingly, when asked whether respondents had ever sought financial advice around common topics like retirement planning or taxes, male respondents had consistently done so more than women on every topic. In addition, the study showed that nearly a quarter of women (24 percent) revealed they had never sought financial advice, compared to only 15 percent of men reporting the same

When it comes to finances, a diversity of counsel can have a positive impact in guiding well-informed decisions. This is especially true as many Americans report they are not as responsible in their spending choices as they feel they should be. In fact, a slight majority of Americans (51 percent) feel they are not managing their own investments or savings as well as they should. Further demonstrating this habit, 39 percent of Americans (43 percent of men and 35 percent of women) also report higher comfort levels in passing along financial advice than acting on it themselves.

“Financial Literacy Month is the ideal time of year for Americans to take an inventory of personal money management habits, determine financial priorities and opportunities, and create a circle of trusted advisors to advise the best path forward when it comes to managing finances,” said Troy Frerichs, director of wealth management at COUNTRY Financial.

Take an Inventory of Personal Money Management Habits: Get started on the road to financial security by assessing money coming in as it relates to current spending and saving patterns. Work toward answering whether you are among the 44 percent of Americans that report they are not as responsible with their spending choices as they should be or the 51 percent that report they are not managing their investments or savings as well as they should.

Determine Financial Priorities and Opportunities: Leverage what is learned from the personal inventory of finances to identify short- and long-term goals. For instance, Americans report they are currently most concerned about affording unexpected expenses (44 percent), affording healthcare costs (41 percent) and being able to take desired vacations (36 percent). Once priorities are determined, investigate solutions and opportunities for saving or investing to help reach your goals.

Create a Circle of Trusted Advisors: In one’s journey to a more secure financial future, it also helps to have a network of trusted advisors that can be counted on for advice. This can range from family, friends, co-workers, employers, financial advisors and beyond. Today, half of Americans (50 percent) report consulting a family member (i.e., mother, father, spouse, sibling or child) for financial advice, while 40 percent reported going to a financial advisor. Meanwhile, seeking financial advice from friends (16 percent), employers (11 percent) and coworkers (6 percent) is less common, but can also be valuable if you consider them trustworthy, resourceful and knowledgeable as it relates to your financial future



*May 11 starting at 10 a.m.*

**Speaker: Julie Angel**  
**Geology of Desert Southwest**  
**Entertainment: Ed Clem**



*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 2017:**

**June 8**  
**July 13**  
**August 10**

## NEW! Champaign County 2017 Plat Books

*View your property on landowner & aerial view maps*

**On Sale Now**

**Champaign County Farm Bureau**  
801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A  
Champaign, IL 61821  
217-352-5235  
*eBooks available in office*

**Wall Maps Available**

*Stop by before April 14, 2017,  
to enter our drawing for a free  
Champaign County Wall Map or SmartMap.*

Visit [mappingsolutionsGIS.com](http://mappingsolutionsGIS.com) for plat books,  
wall maps, eBooks, and SmartMaps in over 500 additional counties.



## Second Solar Meeting

During the first meeting, several requests were made for a summary of Mr. Thalgott's presentation. This is being created and we hope to have a document soon to send out to our email list.

It was mentioned at the end of the event if landowners were interested in solar development, the best plan moving forward was to develop a group of landowners to negotiate with the solar company. The thought is there are a great deal of advantages of working together. With this in mind the Farm Bureau will be **hosting a meeting on Wednesday, May 17th starting at 6:30 p.m. for landowners who are interested in being part of a group that would negotiate an agreement.**

1. Do you want solar panels on your farm?
2. Do you have, or know of an attorney that you want to work with?
3. If you are interested in working as a group, meaning 5 plus land owners want to negotiate a lease as a group, then you need to attend this meeting.

### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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#### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
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Foundation Director -- Kirk Builta

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

## What's New in Agriculture at Parkland?

We are proud to recognize five of our precision agriculture students for their efforts in the North America Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) recent judging competition at Kansas State University. Planting season is also underway in Parkland's Land Laboratory and we are excited about our new tractor and planter.



Students from left to right are Chase Little, Chance Marcotte, Nathan Dietrich, Ellie Raup and Jeana Cheek.

### News to Share:

Students participated in the NACTA Precision Agriculture judging competition – Parkland precision agriculture students competed in the first Precision Agriculture judging competition on the Kansas State University campus in April. Parkland College placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall among 2-year community colleges. Chance Marcotte placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall as an individual and Ellie Raup earned 1<sup>st</sup> place overall in Precision Agriculture Data Interpretation. We are so proud of our students!



**Lexi Stubblefield and Marti Maul load hybrids into Parkland's Precision Planting 20/20 monitor.**

Parkland students participate in planting hybrid demonstrations for industry partners – Students currently enrolled in Parkland's Crop Science course gained hands-on experience in our industry partner (Monsanto, Mycogen, and Wyffels) hybrid plot. Students also gained experience in collecting precision agriculture data on each hybrid planted. This plot will be used in Parkland's fall 2017 Crop Science course for corn laboratory exercises. Our industry partners donate the seed. A special thank you to Tom Franey for allowing Parkland to utilize his disk to prepare our plots this spring.

## Plat Book Wall Map Winner!

A winner has been drawn for the 2017 plat book drawing contest. Everyone who bought a book was entered into a contest. Congratulations, Stephen Osterbur!

### BENEFITS INCLUDE:

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- \*BENEFITS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE\*



# AG NIGHT

## -ILLINOIS FIELD-

### FRIDAY MAY 19, 2017

### 5:00 - 6:30 PM

## All Farm Bureau Members & COUNTRY Financial Clients WELCOME

Join the Champaign County Farm Bureau and COUNTRY Financial at the very first Ag Night at Illinois Field for a **FREE** baseball game: Illinois vs Iowa. First 500 will receive a **FREE** Sidney Dairy Barn ice cream sandwich and limited edition stadium cup. First 50 kids will receive a **FREE** Ag Swag bag!!





# Champaign County Nursing Home Vote Recap

Last month voters of Champaign County took to the ballot booths and voted on a host of elected officials and at least two local referenda, both addressing the Champaign County nursing home. The first question on the ballot asked voters to approve an increase in the levy for the home, but failed by a 56% to 44% vote. The second question asked voters to give the county board the option to sell the nursing home, this question passed 54% to 46%. The Farm Bureau favored a no vote for the levy increase and a yes vote for the sell option. It should be pointed out that the sell option only gives the county board permission to sell, any action to sell the home would take a 2/3<sup>rd</sup>'s majority vote of the full county board before the home could be sold. Additionally, it should be noted that with our support of the sale vote intended that the sale would be to another entity that would operate the facility as a nursing home.

What's next? The Farm Bureau is encouraging the county board to start

the process for the sale of the home while exhausting all other options along the way. The county board needs to be moving forward on this for several reasons, but mainly due to the strain of finances associated with the home that are placed on the county overall. These strains have put additional pressure on a number of departments that have a large influence on our rural members, such as the sheriff's department, among others.

The Farm Bureau is encouraging our members to reach out to their respective county board members over the next two weeks and let your voices be heard on this issue. We are asking that you contact them and request that the county board listen to the voters of the county and move forward with the sale process. The finances of the county as a whole continue to be impacted by the home. The longer the board waits to take action, the more money the home will strain other departments. Please take a few minutes to reach out and talk with your county board member!



Garrett Thalgott, Illinois Farm Bureau Attorney, talked to landowners about recent mailings and contracts sent out by Cypress Creek Renewables. Thalgott encouraged everyone to think twice, visit with their attorney and read, read, read over again to make sure all that is being requested. Thalgott provided many examples and points to consider while going through this process. It was encouraged after the meeting that a group voice has more impact than one voice. The second solar meeting, for those interested in creating a group voice, is scheduled for May 17th at 6:30 PM at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium.



The Champaign County Farm Bureau Women's Committee held their annual Spring Fling April 28th at the Farm Bureau Auditorium. The event is a great way to welcome spring after the cold winter months. There were 98 women in attendance on the 28th. Ladies were able to enjoy a cooking demonstration, live entertainment and a fashion review/program on different spring and summer styles!



Adam Wiz, Breakfast, Life and Dinner, provided an informative cooking demonstration for the Women's Committee Spring Fling. He provided several recipes for the attendees to take home and try on their own, as he prepared and showed them how to cook the meal. The topic also included ancient grains, focusing on farro. The ladies were able to sample a bit of the farro grain, similar to grits in regards to preparation and feel, prepared into a salad. Also cooked were broccoli steaks and tenderloin.