



Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 96, No. 3 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821 March, 2018

“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.”

Getting to Know Champaign County Government

By: Lesley Gooding



Champaign County Farm Bureau’s monthly county government highlight is back. This month the winter weather had us asking a lot of questions about road maintenance, salt usage, and the number of hours employees put in during the winter months to keep county roads safe. We reached out to Jeff Blue the County Engineer for the Champaign County Highway Department to dig deeper and answer questions.

Jeff Blue is originally from Jacksonville, IL, and attended the University of Illinois, graduating in 1989 with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering. Jeff gained valuable experience after college before moving

back to call Champaign County his home saying, “My first job was as the Assistant County Engineer in Macon County, Illinois from 1989 to 1993. I moved to Urbana in 1993 and worked as a field engineer for the Champaign County Engineer from 1993-1994. After I passed my Professional Engineering licensing exam in 1994 I took a job as the County Engineer in Waseca County, Minnesota. I was in Waseca County from 1994-2004 and came back to take the Champaign County Engineer position in October of 2004. I have been the Champaign County Engineer since I returned. I live in Urbana with my wife of 27 years, Kathie. We have two beautiful children; Jamie who is a graduate of Knox College and plans to attend medical school this fall and Noah who is a senior at University High School and plans to attend Milwaukee School of Engineering in the fall.”

The Champaign County Highway Department is responsible for more than just salting roads and fixing potholes. Jeff discusses the source of funding to cover these responsibilities ... “Our funds come from three different sources: Local Tax Levy, State Motor Fuel Tax and Federal Funding. Our local Levy accounts for approximately \$3.5 million per year. Motor Fuel Tax revenues from the State of Illinois account for approximately \$2.5 million per year. Federal Funds received through allocation total about \$1.0 million per year. We are also very aggressive at pursuing discretionary funds from the state and feds which can add up to \$2.0 – \$3.0 million per year on a good year.”

The Champaign County Highway Department employs 20 individuals. Jeff says, “The Highway Department performs all tasks necessary to design and maintain the county highway system, including plowing of the county highways.” He points to the mission statement when asked about responsibilities of the department. “The Champaign County Highway Department in association with the Township Highway Commissioners has been given the opportunity and distinct responsibility to provide a safe rural transportation system for the citizens of Champaign County. We employ our engineering expertise and vocational knowledge to provide reasonable, sensible, and responsible solutions to the challenges facing Champaign County in solicitous response to the needs of our community.”

Have you ever driven around the county and thought to yourself how many miles of roads are in Champaign County? We went straight to the source... Jeff says, “The County maintains 200 miles of roadways and approximately 80 bridges. We are also responsible for performing bridge inspections on all the county, township and small municipality bridges which total about 600 bridges. The townships maintain 1,531 miles of roadways.”

Did you know township commissioners and the county highway department work together to keep your roads and bridges in tip top shape? Jeff was able to lay out the relationship and describe how the townships and county department work together to get the job done. “The county highway department works closely with the township road commissioners to come up with engineered solutions to their problems on the township roads and bridges. We design and oversee almost all of their road and bridge projects. Motor Fuel Tax distributed from the state to the townships is funneled through the highway department. We help the townships set up their maintenance programs and pay their bills on all motor fuel tax projects.”

Hopefully, the snowfall is coming to an end and spring is on the way. Looking back over the past winter and being prepared for more ice or snow is important. According to Jeff, “The County plows and performs ice control on the county highways 24 hours a day. When we begin ice control we will work two 12 hour shifts on rotation until the roads are cleaned up and snow/ice free. We do hire temporary snow plow drivers in the winter since we do not have enough full-time staff to cover both the 12 hour shifts.”

Keeping the roads clear is a major task every winter. According to Jeff, “We typically budget for 3,000 tons of salt per year. Depending on the severity of the winter we may use more or less. Our salt dome holds about 3,500 tons and we take delivery of salt throughout the winter. We have 8 snow plow routes for our winter snow removal.”

A question was asked about the use of liquid salt, does Champaign County utilize this during the winter. Champaign County Farm Bureau didn’t have the answer, but Jeff was able to give us the answers saying “We start to use liquid salt on bridges when there are predictions of frost in the fall and we continue to use it throughout the winter if our

residual salt on the bridges from plowing will not keep the decks free from frost and ice. Liquid salt will stay in place and continue to de-ice the bridge deck. As you may know bridge decks, due to their nature of being suspended in the air tend to ice up or frost up much more frequently than the roads.”

Maintaining 200 miles of roadways sounds a bit overwhelming. How does Champaign County schedule maintenance on your roads and know which problems need to be fixed first? Jeff pointed out, “We have a pavement management system where all of our roads are given a pavement condition index (PCI). We use the PCI to schedule our maintenance and/or construction of our roads. Based on the PCI we have a matrix that we use to schedule the right treatment on the right road at the right time.”

Moving into spring we can start thinking about green grass and mowing our yards. That means the highway department needs to be thinking about mowing roads and Jeff says, “We do mow all of our right of ways along our roads. We typically mow twice a year to keep the weeds and foliage under control. When we get requests, we will leave some areas unmowed for wildlife habitat. Our right of ways are much smaller than the states and do not provide the area of habitat that leaving the interstates unmowed would provide.” For those asking, Champaign County does not currently have an official adopt a highway program.

Good news for Champaign County! Did you know the county received a grant to install more stop signs in the townships around the county? According to Jeff, “The grant is a Highway Safety Improvement Program grant from the Federal Highway Administration through the Illinois Department of Transportation. We anticipate providing two way stop control at all intersections in Champaign County. In a 5 year study of crashes on rural township and county roads in Champaign County there were 2,341 crashes, that’s an average of 468 per year. In that same time frame there were 33 fatalities recorded on the same roads and 704 of those crashes occurred at intersections which equated to 11 fatalities.

Continue County Government on Page 2.....

Most crashes at intersections occur when drivers fail to yield the right of way. Stop signs give a clear indication of the right of way at intersections. Stop signs have been shown in studies to have a 22% crash reduction factor. Is it the perfect solution? We are not naïve enough to make that statement. The perfect solution is to get everyone to be more attentive and drive with caution on the rural roadways, always making sure they have a clear path before entering an intersection. The fact remains that there are entirely too many crashes

and fatalities at rural intersections and we are trying to provide clear guidance to the road user, assuming they are paying attention to the task at hand, DRIVING.”

When will these stop signs start to pop up around the county? Jeff says, “We anticipate awarding the contract for supply and installation of the stop signs this summer. The work will be done by a contractor.”

If a resident has a concern or suggestion regarding a county highway please contact the Champaign County Highway Department at 217-384-3800. If the concern or suggestion is regarding a township road please contact your Township Road Commissioner.



Agriculture Leaders of
Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow
(ALOYTT)
Challenges YOU
to a hand of Euchre!

ALL FARM BUREAU MEMBERS WELCOME!!!
Games start at 2 p.m. and last until 4 p.m.
Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium

Mark these dates on your 2018 calendar!!!

Last Opportunity!

March 11



ALOYTT is open to all Champaign County Farm Bureau members who are interested! These euchre games are a great networking opportunity with other Farm Bureau members and a great way to get out during the winter. Due to the possibility of poor weather, all those who are interested are encouraged to call ALOYTT Chairman, Gerald Henry. Gerald can be contacted by phone at: 778-6157 For any questions please call the Champaign County Farm Bureau office by phone: 352-5235.

“Check Your Calendar!”
March 2018

8	Prime Timers	10:00 AM
8	YAL Meeting	6:30 PM
8	Land Use	6:00 PM
10	CDL Prep Class	7:30 AM
11	ALOYTT Euchre	2:00 PM
12	Women’s Committee	9:30 AM
13	Legislative	7:30 AM
13	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 AM
13	Women’s Committee Food Safety meeting	6:30 PM
15	CCFB Full Board	6:30 PM
17	St. Patrick’s Day	
19	Coffee Shop - Champaign, Rafters Draft & Dough	noon
20	Primary Election	
20	Coffee Shop - Dewey Community Church	noon
21	Coffee Shop - Mahomet, JT Walker’s	noon
22	Coffee Shop - Homer Vintage Bakery	7:30 AM
22	Coffee Shop - Philo Tavern	noon
22	Bee Workshop - See Page 8	6:00 PM
23	Coffee Shop - Gifford, Stagecoach Steakhouse	noon
24	First Responder Training and Awareness Class - See Page 8	
30	Office Closed - Good Friday	
April 2018		
1	Happy Easter!	
2	Marketing WILL Spring Outlook	7:00 PM
5	YAL	6:30 PM



March
Report

President, Mike Briggs

As we finish up the month of February most of the area is dealing with excessive rainfall with more in the forecast. The month of March will be busy as we prepare for the 2018 planting season and contemplate crop insurance decisions. Crop insurance will be a hot topic again this year as work starts on the next farm bill. Be on the lookout for action requests to our legislators as we move through the spring and summer. Champaign county does an excellent job of communicating with our legislators and we need to make sure we continue that work.

March will also be busy for the Farm Bureau. The Governmental Affairs Legislative Conference is March 14-15 in Springfield. Earth Partners Coffee Shop Tour will take place the week of March 19-23. We look forward to seeing many of you at those events.

Two final thoughts. First, March 20 is the primary election and I ask that everyone be as informed as possible on the races and make sure to get out and vote. Every vote does matter. Finally, as we move through the month it is likely to see equipment headed out to the fields. Please be safe and look out for others on the roadways.

Sincerely,
Mike Briggs

Women’s Committee

March 12th - Lin Warfel, Normandy Trip
Lunch: Urbana Gardens

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee is open to all women members of the Farm Bureau. The women’s committee meets every second Monday of the month (except May and October) at 9:30 a.m. with lunch to follow.

Next Meeting:
April 9th

Business meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Lunch at Houlihan’s
Tour of Riggs Beer Company - afternoon.

Hormone & Antibiotic FREE

The Truth About Food Myths

March 13th
6:30 PM - CCFB Auditorium
Sandwich Supper Provided
RSVP Deadline: March 9th
(217) 352-5235

Open to Public and ALL CCFB Members

Do you find you don’t have an adequate knowledge base when you hear urban counterparts negating the safety of our food and dairy products? If so, it will be **important** to join the Women’s Committee sponsored learning opportunity about these hot-button issues on March 13th at 6:30PM. The Farm Bureau will host an evening with Jenna Kilgus, from Kilgus Dairy in Fairbury, IL. She is an active producer and also on the Livingston County Farm Bureau Board as the Promotions and Education Committee Chair. She will address dairy safety. Also joining us for the evening will be Dr. Bob Ebbesmeyer from New Hope Veterinary Clinic in German Valley, IL. He will educate us about the relatively new Veterinarian Feed Directives. Dr. Bob Ebbesmeyer is a 1990 graduate of the University of Missouri. After doing a short student internship at New Hope Veterinary Clinic in German Valley (Stephenson County), he accepted a position to work there, and never left. He is blessed to continue in his mixed animal practice tucked away in northwest Illinois with his two partners and two associates.

In addition to this invitation to Farm Bureau members, please invite others interested in these pertinent topics to share the evening with you. A sandwich supper will be served, along with treats from the Women’s Committee. Watch for community announcements on Facebook, the News Gazette and on CI Living. We encourage your support in helping educate our community on this important topic. You will need to reserve your spot for the evening by calling the Farm Bureau Office at 352-5235.

Registration is now open: \$5 to attend!

2018 Women’s Committee

SPRING FLING!

Wednesday, April 11, beginning at 10 a.m.

Lunch Served by the Women’s Committee

Registration Deadline: Friday, April 6

2018 Marketing Club



Joe Burke, Chairman
CCFB Marketing Club

*Sharpen YOUR Strategy by
Attending this Marketing Club Opportunity:*

*April 2nd
WILL AM 580*

Spring Outlook

Guest to be announced Stay tuned!

Marketing Update

By: Clayton Pope, Clayton Pope Commodities, LLC

Grain markets have been enjoying somewhat of a “Hail Mary” experience as late season South American weather concerns are providing some very welcome price strength. These concerns are growing despite what until recently seemed like very bearish fundamentals both in the U.S. and the world.

Until about a month ago, before serious concerns began to brew regarding the lack of rain in Argentina, it seemed as if we were going to head into the 2018 U.S. planting season with very burdensome U.S. and world carryover stocks of both corn and soybeans. Now, we are seeing production estimates being cut back for both Argentine corn and soybeans, and to a lesser extent, Brazilian corn. The concern regarding Argentina stems from the statistic that total precipitation in that country for the months of January and February amount to the second driest since 1980. In Brazil, the concern regarding their second corn crop (which normally accounts for about two-thirds of their total corn production) is based on a late planting pace due to a moderately late soybean harvest and currently excessive rains in some areas. On the other hand, the Brazilian soybean crop is expected to be record large.

In this article, we would like to give a bird’s eye view of the relative production levels of the main three world producers, as well as the relative size of the production that may be at risk.

For starters, here is a spreadsheet that shows the amount of production and exports of corn, soybeans, and soybean meal for the U.S., Brazil, and Argentina, shown both in terms of actual production (in millions of metric tons) and as a percent of total world figures. Keep in mind that these figures are based on the latest (February 2018) USDA Supply and Demand report and, as discussed below, are all subject to change going forward.

Perspective on South American Corn and Soybeans			
For 2017-2018 Marketing Year			
Item per			Quantity
Most Recent	Quantity		as % of
USDA S & D	in MMT		Total World
<u>Corn Production</u>			
World	1042		100%
U.S.	371		36%
Brazil	95		9%
Argentina	39		4%
<u>Corn Exports</u>			
World	154		100%
U.S.	52		34%
Brazil	35		23%
Argentina	28		18%
<u>Soybean Production</u>			
World	347		100%
U.S.	120		35%
Brazil	112		32%
Argentina	54		16%
<u>Soybean Exports</u>			
World	152		100%
U.S.	57		38%
Brazil	69		45%
Argentina	9		6%
<u>Soybean Meal Exports</u>			
World	67		100%
U.S.	11		16%
Brazil	15		22%
Argentina	31		46%

Let’s look at the soybean complex for starters. Estimates of the Argentina soybean crop have been lowered considerably over recent weeks, and their ongoing drought appears to show little sign of ending soon. On the other hand, the Brazil soybean crop is widely expected to be record large this year. The net change in soybean production between these two countries is almost certainly going to be a net loss from the quantities listed above, but the question is “just how bullish is this net loss likely to be?”

Keep in mind that front month soybeans have already advanced over 70 cents in less than three weeks, presumably already discounting some degree of production loss. It appears to us that the worst-case scenario based on previous

droughts in Argentina is that their production could drop as much as another 12 MMT, to possibly as low as 42 MMT. Brazil’s production appears to be headed to an increase over the above figure of as much as 5 MMT. This would suggest a possible net loss of 7 MMT, or, about 250 million bushels. This is undoubtedly a very big loss, but the eventual market impact is likely to be tempered due to huge beginning stocks for Argentina this year, the record large Brazil crop, and the extremely large U.S. carryover (largest stocks to usage ratio in 12 years).


There is additional concern regarding the production loss in Argentina, and that is due to the fact that Argentina is the world’s largest exporter of both soybean meal and soybean oil. This is certainly adding fuel to the fire regarding the current soybean rally. However, there are strong thoughts in the industry that because of the large soybean inventory that Argentina currently enjoys, they will still be able to maintain their expected soybean crush volume, and even if this proves to be a challenge, they would be expected to import Brazilian soybeans to maintain their normal crush volume.

Looking at corn, Argentina is expected to see lost production here as well. Current estimates are looking at a loss of something along the lines of 4 MMT. Brazil is a much bigger corn producer, and because of their second corn

crop currently only being about a third planted, it is too early to have a good handle on production possibilities. However, because planting is delayed, many believe fewer acres will end up actually being planted, with some cutting Brazil’s corn production by as much as 9 MMT. So, the loss in corn production between the two countries is currently being estimated as possibly being as large as 13 MMT, or, about 500 million bushels. This could have a positive influence on U.S. corn exports, and the USDA apparently feels that way, having recently increased their projected total corn exports by 125 million bushels in the February S&D.


Add all of this together, and the current strength in both corn and soybean prices makes a lot of sense. As long as the extreme dryness in Argentina continues, it would appear that prices will continue to work higher, but because of the current large U.S. and world inventories of both, a need for rationing of supplies is not likely. Accordingly, we feel that producers should take advantage of the ongoing strength and price some degree of anticipated new crop production. However, we feel such sales should be relatively conservative because Brazil’s second corn crop has a very long way to go, not to mention our own growing season just ahead.

HORMONE



ANTIBIOTIC
FREE

THE TRUTH
ABOUT FOOD MYTHS



March 13th at 6:30 PM

Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium

JENNA KILGUS, **DR. BOB EBBESMEYER,**
KILGUS FARMSTEAD INC. NEW HOPE VETERINARY CLINIC
DAIRY SAFETY ***VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE***

SPONSORED BY: THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

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

CONSUMER CONNECTION TIPS & TOOLS TO HELP YOU SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF AGRICULTURE

Striking up a conversation with your neighbor at the grocery store about agriculture and you realize you have different opinions about food and farming? Don’t fear the person, but the misinformation. No need to get defensive, it’s just a conversation....consumers just want to know about their food.

Linda Olson, Illinois Farm Families, suggests when talking to consumers farmers/producers realize “the most important thing is that we are building relationships so that consumers build trust in farmers and their farming practices. We do that through conversations. And just as we build friendships by finding common ground or values, we try to find out what common values we (farmers or those in agriculture) have with consumers. They can be the whole gamut.... we’re parents, we’re grandparents, we like to run, we like to eat healthy, we like to EAT! We want our kids to eat healthy, we belong to the same church, our kids go to the same school, we are concerned about the environment, etc. And it’s through conversations that we find out how we are alike, then we build on that.”

Consumer Connection Tip #7: Strive to have a successful conversation...Both parties walk away feeling heard and understand more about the perspective of the other party!



KIRK BULTA
Executive Director



MYLA MUNRO
Earth Partners Coordinator

CCFBFOUNDATION.COM



/CCFBFOUNDATION



/CCFB_FOUNDATION

Foundation Board Adds Members, Elects Officers

By: Kirk Bulta



Brian McCoy of Birkey's Farm Store was re-elected President of the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation. 2018 will mark the third and final year of McCoy's tenure as President.

After adding three new members in January, the CCFB Foundation Board of Directors has elected its 2018 leadership team. The 15 member board of directors added three new members. Joining the board is Mark Thornsborough, General Manager of Illini FS and Dale Franzen, a Rantoul area farmer. Also returning to the board is Shanna Hortin of Fisher. Hortin operates Star H Farms with her family and is employed by Wallace Land Company.

Brian McCoy was elected to a third term as president of the foundation board. Originally elected president in 2016, McCoy is Manager of Birkey's Farm Store in Urbana. McCoy tells us that he's excited to lead the Foundation for a third and final year and enjoys working with his board

colleagues. "I'm proud to be a part of a very well rounded board of professionals," said McCoy. Our group includes an accountant, a lawyer, a lender, University of Illinois representatives, farmers, insurance representatives and more."

Hortin was elected to serve as Vice-President of the Foundation. The new Treasurer will be local attorney and CPA Jason Bartell of Rantoul. Elected to the post of board secretary was Jessica Patzwith of St. Joseph. Patzwith is employed by Illinois Farm Business Farm Management Association.

Foundation Executive Director, Kirk Bulta, says that while it's exciting to add new faces to the Foundation's Board, it's a bittersweet moment as four members retire from the Board. Jim Goss of The Atkins Group, Mike Maz-

zocco of Verdant Partners and Vann Parkin of COUNTRY Financial all left the Foundation Board at the end of their terms. Mike Briggs of M&M Briggs Farms also left the board after being elected to serve as President of the Champaign County Farm Bureau.

"Our retiring board members leave big shoes to fill" says Bulta. Goss, Mazzocco and Parkin had all served the board in various leadership positions throughout their time with the Foundation.

The Foundation Board of Directors and staff pride themselves on providing educational opportunities that impact the future of the food and agricultural industry throughout Champaign County, and around the world.

2018 Earth Partners' Coffee Shop Tour

The Earth Partners' Coffee Shop Fundraiser is coming up soon and in order to have a record-breaking year, we need your help! Your donation helps the Earth Partners Ag Literacy Program serve our many students and teachers within Champaign County by providing agricultural education through hands-on lessons, programs and activities. With your support we can continue our efforts of educating on the importance of agriculture through classroom presentations, workshops and informational materials.

Donations may be brought with you to one of the stops listed below, mailed to the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation office located at 801 N. Country Fair Drive; Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821 or you can also donate online at www.ccfbfoundation.com.

WDWS radio personality, Dave Gentry will announce all the community contributions on air the following day. Thank you for helping to keep agricultural literacy efforts a priority in Champaign County! If you have questions, call 352-5235 or email myla@ccfarmbureau.com.



Mary Coash, retired teacher from Unit #4, describes the value that Earth Partners programs added to her classroom and the importance she feels the program has now as a volunteer.

Help teach our youth about 21st century agriculture!
Join us!

March 19—23, 2018

Monday: Rafters Draft & Dough, 1906 W. Bradley Ave., Champaign—12pm

Tuesday: Dewey Community Church, 16 Third St., Dewey—12pm

Wednesday: JT Walker's, 401 E Main St., Mahomet—12pm

Thursday: Homer Vintage Bakery, 111 S Main St., Homer—7:30am

Philo Tavern, 101 Washington, St., Philo—12pm

Friday: Stagecoach Steakhouse, 2203 County Road 3000 N, Gifford—12pm

As a "Thank You!" for your donation, please join us
for a complimentary lunch.

EARTH PARTNERS serves thousands of students and hundreds of teachers in Champaign County by providing **agricultural education** through hands-on lessons and activities. We ask for your help to continue our efforts of educating on the importance of agriculture.

2017 Program Impact

9,000

Champaign County students annually receive education about agriculture through hands-on and interactive lessons. Our classroom activities explore agriculture through math, science, English language arts and social studies.

Over 100 individual volunteers share their passion for agriculture with students across the county each year. Our Earth Partners volunteers explain how farming connects to the students in Champaign County.

Agricultural education materials and lessons are shared with students in more than 50 different schools, park districts and after-school programs.

All donations appreciated.
Historically called "Coffee Shop Tour".

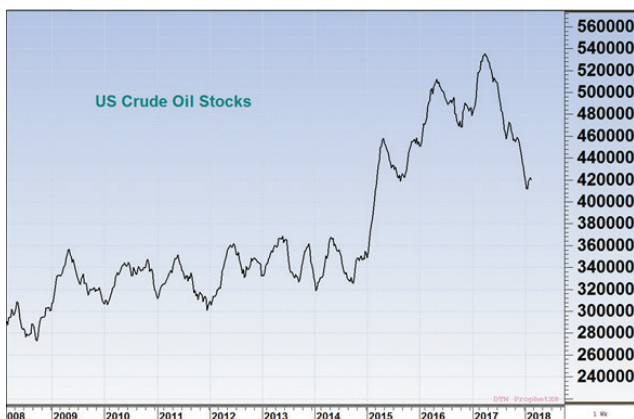


a division of GROWMARK, Inc.



MARK THORNSBROUGH,
GENERAL MANAGER

Continued Decline in Crude Oil Stock



Since mid-March 2017 stocks of U.S. crude oil have continued to decline, as both domestic and international demand has been aggressive. The latest DOE report pegged U.S. crude oil stocks at 420.5 million barrels vs. 518.7 million barrels at this same time last year. The

aggressive appetite for crude oil can be linked to two outside markets. First, the stock market has been on a strong uptrend since last November, the strong stock market tends to suggest an improving economy, which in turn increases demand for crude oil. The second outside influence has been a softer dollar, as a weaker U.S. dollar makes our U.S. commodities (crude oil, corn, heating oil, etc.) more attractive on the international market.

Sign Up Today for 2018 N-TRACKER

By: Dr. Howard Brown



Above normal rainfall for February coupled with above normal temperatures provide reason for weather models to change. Such changes should prompt producers to consider what changes may be needed to the “normal” 2018 cropping plans.

A common question after the mid-February rains is “Is my fall-applied N still there?” Based upon what we have

learned from research, there should be little movement if the N is still in the ammonium-N form (holds onto the soil exchange capacity). Nitrogen applied with N-Serve and after the soils cooled below 50°F should still be in the stable ammonium-N form. However, soil samples collected in January, 2017 after fall 2016 N applications suggested approximately 75% of plant-available N detected in the upper 2 feet was already in the nitrate-N form. Is there a way to determine the status of plant-available N in the soil profile? Yes. N-TRACKER provides a window into the upper soil profile to estimate the form and concentration of plant-available N. A new report for 2018 will also include an inventory of soil pH, P, K, Organic Matter, Cation Exchange Capacity estimate, sulfur and boron at both 0-1 and 1-2 feet. The soil test values have little-to-no value when it comes to making a nutrient recommendation. However, the tests will reveal the concentration of specific nutrients in the upper profile explored by our new-age hybrid’s root system. It is time to start exploring beyond our 7-inch traditional sampling depth. It is time to characterize the upper soil profile to discover any correlation to nutrient status and harvest yield at a depth of 0-1 feet, 1-2 feet or both. Contact your local Illini FS Crop Specialist to sign-up for a 2018 N-TRACKER Site to experience the concept of tracking plant-available N, the 2nd greatest input cost, throughout the growing season. Learn what the new nutrient inventory report discovers within your upper soil profile.

FARMTOWN
— ILLINI FS — *lawn and garden center*

1509 E. UNIVERSITY AVE URBANA, IL 217-384-8308



Seed Starting Saturdays



The Early Ones

March 3rd 10 am-12 pm

Seeds that need a little more time!
Black Beauty Eggplant, Sweet Yellow Onion,
Jalapeno Pepper and Banana Pepper

The Sweet and Savory

March 17th 10 am-12 pm

Sweet Pepper, Parsley, and Chives

Brassicas

March 31st 10 am-12 pm

Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, and Broccoli

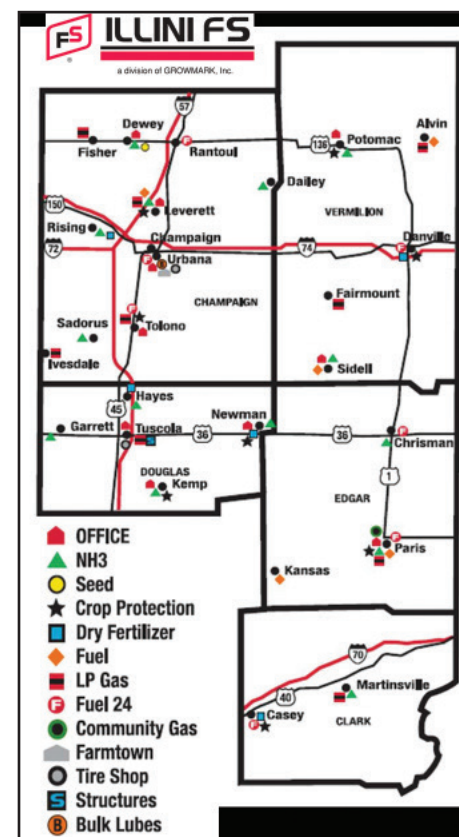
Seed Starting Saturdays is a hands-on workshop with discussion on germination, growing media, moisture, and light requirements for successful seed starting. Each week you’ll start seeds and take home cell packs of vegetables and herbs. Future Saturday topics will Include: hardening off your seedlings, important seeding and transplanting dates, and direct seeding. Workshops are from 10 am-12 pm. There is a \$15 fee for supplies at the first workshop; future workshop have a \$5 supply fee. Reservations are appreciated.

Kokedama

March 10th 10 am-11 am

Kokedama is a ball of soil, covered with moss, on which an ornamental plant grows. The idea has its origins in Japan where Kokedama are very popular. There is a \$15.00 fee for supplies.

Please RSVP at 217-384-8308.





Nathan Hubbard
COUNTRY Financial
Agency Manager



FINANCIAL

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

SPOTLIGHT

COUNTRY Financial Agent

Chris Greenwold



Dan Punkay
328-0023



Travis Heath
352-4555



Keith Garrett
485-3010



Jessie DeHaan
352-3466



Stan Ochs
352-3296



Terry Hill
469-9800



Jim Nelson
892-4479



Scott Jackson
359-9335



Andrew Deedrich
359-3941



Marcia Woolcott
Administrative Assistant
Champaign Agency



Bret Kroencke
359-9391



Chuck Rippy
586-5030



Chris Greenwold
355-8675



Dan Duitsman
469-2033



John May
352-3341



Austin Beaty
217-352-0012



Steve Derry
352-2655



Eight years ago Chris Greenwold made a career change and became a COUNTRY Financial Representative. A former fifth grade teacher and area manager of Bachrach Menswear, Chris says he became a representative because, “It’s teaching, the students are just bigger! I really enjoy watching my clients grow as they act out the plans to protect what they have and grow for their future.”

There is no typical day on the job for Chris, located at 3123 Village Office Place in Champaign. Chris says not having a typical day is “one of the best parts about this career, the only typical parts are that the first hour I meet with my team and plan out what we think we are going to do for the day. From there no two days look alike.”

Chris believes meeting with clients is important to the client and the representative saying, “Between changes in tax and insurance law, changes in COUNTRY’s operating procedures and discounts, and changes in their lives, meeting regularly is the only possible way to ensure they have the appropriate plan in the most cash flow effective manner. The most important thing for any client or prospect is that the plan they have now protects them today and tomorrow effectively. The reason to meet with us is to review one or all of their insurance plans, savings plan, income distribution plans or estate preservation plan and see if the parts are all working together in the most effective manner according to the client’s wishes.”

According to Chris, COUNTRY Financial is unique and has a great deal to offer current and prospective clients including “a representative, working with a plan for insurance, debt elimination, savings, retirement, etc. Your feelings and your personal situation affect all of those and by working with me I can help you through that process. Every client has a different question. That’s part of the value of having a representative. But, the question I wish I heard more is how do I insure my income? Clients focus on their cars and homes all the time, but they fail to spend enough time wondering what would happen if they didn’t have their income. Most people don’t recognize that their income is their most valuable asset, “

Chris has a passion for COUNTRY Financial saying, “I believe this company truly believes in the services it provides and the customer it serves. My number one goal is to help people increase peace of mind, cash flow, and have a true understanding of their financial future and how to keep doors open for their future. The best advice I can give a client is to REVIEW your plan. If your plan was right 5 years ago and you have not met with anyone, go find someone and do it because it probably isn’t the best it can be today.”

Chris is originally from Monticello, IL, graduating from Illinois State University with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. He is the proud father of Jackson and Tucker. Chris enjoys playing games or sports with his kids, spending time in the gym, running with friends, spending time outside, a good book, and says “watching Netflix may also be considered a hobby.”

Making an impact in the community is important to Chris also. He is member of Champaign West Rotary, the YMCA scholarship committee, and is a Champaign to Peoria St. Jude Run Team Sponsor.

Join the Prime Timers!
March 8 starting at 10 a.m.

Speaker: Maureen Holtz

Life of Robert Allerton

Music: Piano by Yu Gao “Sonny”



Gerald Henry, 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 2018:

April 12

May 10

June 14

New Director Feature



Paul Hunsinger has recently been elected to the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors representing Mahomet Township. Paul has been helping on the family farm since he was a youngster saying, “I grew up getting to go help my uncle's

harvest corn on the family farm. I always enjoyed getting to help. From then I knew that I wanted to be involved in agriculture in some way.”

Champaign County Farm Bureau board members spend a great deal of time exploring agriculture issues and working on legislative issues that affect agriculture locally and nationally. As a new member of the board of directors Paul says he would like to spend some time focusing on “teaching people about GMO’s and how we are taking precautions to preserve the land while still growing high yielding crops is important.”

With the constant changes that impact agriculture Paul says he is most excited about “precision agriculture and how it is always changing. There is more and more technology integrated into operation and machinery to make farmer's decisions easier and more efficient.”

Paul’s journey to becoming a farm bureau board member began several years ago when, at the encouragement of his best friend, he became a farm bureau member. “This year there was an opening for Mahomet Township and I thought this would be a great opportunity to get better involved with the agriculture community and the Champaign County Farm Bureau.”

Paul is employed as a Precision Ag Solution Specialist at AHW in Urbana, IL. In his spare time, Paul can be found spending time with his family. He says “I also spend as much time as I can helping my Dad on the farm in Mahomet. My dad, brother and I also enjoy restoring antique John Deere tractors and taking them to shows.”

2018 CCFB TRIPS & TOURS Upcoming

APRIL 6, CIRCA’ 21 - “RISE UP, O MEN”

We will depart the Farm Bureau parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and travel to Rock Island, Il to the Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse to see “Rise Up, O Men” which is a brand new musical featuring the men of the church & your favorite church basement ladies who serve them. As these hard-working farmers discuss their scrap lumber piles and the benefits of solder vs weld, they unintentionally disrupt the order of the kitchen. But that’s what happens when you let roosters in the hen house! Rise Up, O Men! Shows us a couple of days in the life of a small rural Lutheran Church circa 1964.

Cost per person: \$95.00 per person



Trip includes: transportation, lunch and show

Deadline: March 24, 2018



Please extend a warm welcome to new Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Director Chris Foran. Chris has been elected to represent Colfax Township. He grew up on his family farm working alongside his dad and that’s where his love for agriculture began.

As a fourth generation farmer, Chris has seen major changes within the field of agriculture. Along with these changes comes challenges and concerns. As a board member, Chris would like to focus his attention on several items including tight margins in farming and educating landowners saying “commodity prices have come down, but cash rent prices have not followed suit.” Becoming involved in the farm bureau is a great way to educate others about issues impacting

agriculture on a daily basis. Through Chris’ involvement in local and state meetings and local committee meetings several of these issues will be addressed.

Chris is also excited to stay up to date on legislative issues impacting farm bureau members on the federal and local level, he says “We need to keep legislators interested in agriculture and educate the public about the concerns of agriculture!” The Champaign County Farm Bureau Legislative Committee works to provide members and legislators with information to take action and seeks answers to many legislative questions impacting agriculture.

Along with the constant changes in agriculture comes excitement. Chris says, “Farmers do a good job of keeping resources in good shape, but it is exciting to see help out there for farmers to stay on top of this.” This kind of help provides farmers with a variety of information on important topics including the 4 R’s of Nutrient Management, participating in conservation stewardship programs, and a host of other topics that can benefit agriculture. Technology is also an exciting part of today’s farm. Chris says, “Technology is second nature to the younger generation of farmers. I wish it would have come out 10 years earlier. This technology makes it easier for farmer to compile accurate information.” Chris and his late wife, Vicki, are parents to three children. Chris’ hobbies include golfing, boating, and skiing.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

(USPS 099-840)

801 N. Country Fair Drive, Ste. A, Champaign, IL 61821
Published Monthly by the Champaign County Farm Bureau

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE -- \$3 PER YEAR

Periodicals Postage Paid at Champaign
(ISSN 1078-2966)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to “Farm Bureau News” 801 N. Country Fair Drive,
Ste. A, Champaign IL 61821-2492

OFFICERS

Mike Briggs, Ludlow Township.....President
Adam Watson, Crittenden Township.....1st Vice President
Carl Smith, Ayers Township.....2nd Vice President
Brennon Breymeyer, Ogden Township.....Secretary
Lee Waters, Treasurer.....Treasurer

Dale Tharp, Champaign; Chris Foran, Colfax; Kristi Pflugmacher, Condit; Mitchell Heap, East Bend; Trent Wolken, Harwood/Kerr; Bob Furtney, Hensley; Christi DeLaney, Newcomb; Jim Kleiss, Pesotum; Andy Hughes, Philo; Justin Leerkamp, Raymond; Loretta Stoerger, Sadorus; Paul Berbaum, Scott; Benjamin Rice, Sidney; Steve Hammel, Somer; Brian Krukewitt, South Homer; Derek Harms, Stanton; Tom Swigart, Tolono; Dale Franzen, Rantoul; Paul Routh, Urbana; Joe Burke, Marketing Committee Chairman; Paulette Brock, Women’s Committee Chair; Gerald Henry, Prime Timers; Lynn Doran, Young Ag Leaders

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 Builtla

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

SAVINGS WHEREVER YOU GO

Illinois Farm Bureau members enjoy exclusive access to more than 302,000 discounts on everything from hotel rooms to theme parks, new Ford vehicles to prescriptions. Whether you are at home or traveling across the state ... you can find offers near you.

Access your FREE member-only offers at <http://ilfb.abenity.com>

ONE STOP SAVINGS

- Log in to our new membership benefit platform using your county Farm Bureau® membership number at <https://ilfb.abenity.com>
- Search offers using business names, locations, categories, and more
- Change your location to see deals near you
- Show and save mobile coupons
- Provide instant, in-store discounts at nearby restaurants and retailers



RESTAURANTS CONCERTS ZOOS GIFTS FLOWERS FASHION SPORTING EVENTS TRAVEL HEALTH

Career Aspirations and Answers

Champaign County Farm Bureau and Mahomet Jr. High 8th grade educators have teamed up to educate students, 13-14 years of age, about careers in agriculture. The purpose of this event is to educate youth about careers in the agricultural industry that may already be an interest to them.

The Mahomet Ag Career Talks were set up for two different dates presenting three subject areas at each. These programs are important to youth because agriculture has a place for everyone. The categories

presented on were based on common interest and the existing hobbies of the Mahomet/Seymour 8th graders. Each session was concluded with a time for questions and answers. Some students asked more details about the career being presented and others asked about career background on the presenter. This program gives great insight to today's youth that will become tomorrow's leaders.

Topics included:

Animals, plants, technology, math, food and communications.



Gale Cunningham, WYXY Classic 99.1, talking about Ag Communications



Beth Bolger, Farm Credit Illinois, talking about her career in communications



Above: Members of the Champaign County Farm Bureau Women's Committee meet at the home of Pat Smith to sew on projects benefiting the local nursing homes. Picture on left (L to R): Elizabeth Rothermel, Paulette Brock, Pat Smith and Lois Wood. Picture on Right (L to R): Ronda Scott & Barb Leach



Christie Delaney, Newcomb Township Director, talking about her family hog farm with students interested in a career with animals



Traci Barkley, Sola Gratia, talks to students about a career in foods



Waiting for Spring? The First Day of Spring is March 20th!



Cartoon Submitted by Lin Warfel

BEES FOR BEGINNERS WORKSHOP

- Illinois Department of Agriculture- Registering the hives
- Jason Bleich, Pheasants Forever- Bee Habitat
- Local Beginner Keeper Panel



March 22, 2018 @ 6pm

Champaign County Farm Bureau

801 N Country Fair Drive, Suite A,
Champaign IL

Champaign County Farm Bureau

ILLINOIS
Extension
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2110 W. Park Court, Suite C, Champaign IL 61821
217-352-3536 ext. 3 | www.ccsacd.com

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender



FREE Training/Awareness!

Open to CCFB members, public and First Responders

RSVP Required: 217-352-5235

MARCH 24th - Farm Bureau Auditorium

Sign up for all 8 hours and receive a free lunch!

Calling All First Responders

**FREE
TRAINING**

**LARGE ANIMAL RESCUE
AWARENESS (4 HOURS)
ANHYDROUS AMMONIA
SAFETY AWARENESS
(4 HOURS)
CONTINUING ED CREDIT**



MADE POSSIBLE BY:
ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
AND COUNTRY FINANCIAL
FARM SAFETY GRANT

**SATURDAY
MARCH 24
8AM - 4:30PM
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
FARM BUREAU AUDITORIUM
801 N. COUNTRY FAIR
DR. CHAMPAIGN, IL
RSVP: (217) 352-5235**

**LUNCH PROVIDED FOR
FULL DAY ATTENDEES**

**LUNCH PROVIDED BY:
THE CHAMPAIGN
COUNTY FARM BUREAU
EQUINE COMMITTEE
& YOUNG AG LEADERS**

**CLASSES OPEN TO FIRST
RESPONDERS, PUBLIC &
FARM BUREAU MEMBERS**

