



Champaign County Farm Bureau News

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

June, 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



John Dwyer

Meet John Dwyer, Coordinator of Champaign County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). John is originally from Virginia, graduated from the Virginia Military Institute and served in the Air Force for 7 years. John met his wife in the military and made the move to Illinois when his wife entered graduate school at the University of Illinois. Prior to joining EMA in 2011, John worked for the health department. John received his Masters degree in Pubic Health from UIS and currently serves part-time in the Air Guard

at the Joint Force Headquarters, Camp Lincoln in Springfield, IL.

Champaign County EMA employs two people, a coordinator and deputy coordinator. Volunteers help bolster this department too. Currently, EMA has 10 volunteer storm spotters, several volunteer radio operators and search and rescue volunteers. Champaign County EMA works closely with local towns and villages, who also have volunteers, to provide resources and fill in gaps when needed.

EMA falls under the direction of the sheriff's office. EMA is responsible for all emergency preparedness for the county including

emergency management, hazardous materials, severe weather, and houses the command and control center for incidents occurring in the county.

A constant challenge facing EMA is their budget. Strains on the \$160,000 budget come from new requirements handed down from the federal government, new technology, necessary technology upgrades, and lessons learned from disasters.

Each disaster, whether it is local, national, or global, gives a unique perspective to what should be done in Champaign County. Due to issues facing long-term care facil-

ities in recent disasters, a big push has been placed on these facilities to implement emergency plans. According to John Dwyer, several agencies have been working together including public health, EMA, and Carle, to provide outreach to these facilities in Champaign County. Hosting quarterly meetings and providing opportunities for workshop credits help local long-term care facilities meet requirements for federal funds needed to implement emergency plans.

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Welcome New CCFB Assistant Manager Bailey Edenburn

By: Bailey Edenburn

How do you start a column about coming home? I'm not sure either, so I'm just going to jump right in. My name is Bailey Edenburn and I'm honored to be the new Assistant Manager of the Champaign County Farm Bureau.

I grew up on a small family farm between Penfield and Armstrong, and yes, part of my summer is still spent at I & I. My sister and I both showed Hereford cattle growing up and I was actively involved with both 4-H and FFA, and I have some fond memories of showing at the Champaign County Fair. I've been lucky enough to travel extensively throughout the US and Canada thanks to the connections I've forged with other cattle producers. My dad and I still manage a small cow/calf herd of 25 Polled and Horned Hereford cows on the family farm.

I bleed orange and blue, which is not surprising, considering that I spent 6 1/2 years on the campus of the University of Illinois. I received both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Animal Science and finally left the college bubble in 2015. At the U of I, I participated on both the livestock and meats judging teams, which were a highlight of my college career.

I started working for the Illinois Farm Bureau in 2016 and was

lucky enough to be hired as manager of the Shelby County Farm Bureau later that year. I've spent the last year and a half serving the Shelby County Farm Bureau members and I greatly enjoyed my time there.

Through all my experiences in agriculture though, I've always believed in serving others. Coming back to Champaign county is exciting for me as I will get to serve the people who have done so much for me as I was growing up. I have profound respect for the work done by the Champaign County Farm Bureau and I can't wait to get started.



Bailey Edenburn



Champaign County Farm Bureau would like to congratulate Marcia Woolcott, COUNTRY Financial Champaign Agency Administrative Assistant, on her retirement. Marcia retired from COUNTRY Financial at the end of May after 22 years of service of with the family of companies. Marcia plans to spend time with her family, camp, garden,

learn to play the piano, read to grade school children, rock babies in the NICU, and work at the State Farm Center. Marcia says, "I will miss the people and all my coworkers!" Best of luck and have fun!

June Report

President, Mike Briggs



As we approach the end of May the 2018 planting season is quickly wrapping up. After a slow start to the month of April there were a lot of crops planted in a very short window. Spraying season will be underway shortly and I ask everyone to please be careful and be aware of the crops around you. Now we have to wait and see what Mother Nature brings this summer. Rains have been spotty for much of the area and temperatures have been above normal but most of the crops appear to be off to a good start.

Things are picking back up at the Farm Bureau as summer approaches and we work on a number of programs. I would like to thank David Fulton for his work the last few years and wish him well in his new endeavors. Finally, with Memorial Day this weekend, please take a moment to remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for this great country.

Sincerely,
Mike Briggs

June Dairy Day

Saturday, June 16, 2-5 p.m. • Riggs Beer Company, Urbana, IL

- Sidney Dairy Barn Mini Moo Mobile 2:30-3:30
- Live Dairy Goat Petting Pen
- Learn to Milk a Cut-out Cow or Goat
- Feed Play Station: Hay Bale Tower, Grain Play Table, Soybean Pit
- Champaign County Farm Bureau Learning Barn Play Station
- Dairy Recipes to Take Home

Join the Prime Timers!
June 14 starting at 10 a.m.

Speaker: Paul Berbaum
Topic: Recent trip to Brazil and Argentina



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:
July 12
August 9
September 13

"Check Your Calendar!" June 2018

June 7	Young Ag Leaders @ Lynn Doran's House	6:30 pm
June 11	Women's Committee at Smith House, Tuscola	9:30 am
June 11	Marketing Club Meeting	6:30 pm
June 12	Young Ag Leader's 4-H Operation LEAD	
June 12	Premier Ladies Marketing	10 am
June 13	COUNTRY Financial/Farm Bureau Succession Planning	
June 14	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
June 14	Land Use	6:30 p.m.
June 16	Young Ag Leaders June Dairy Days at Riggs Brewery	2-5 p.m.
June 18	Women's Committee Kitchen Tips & Techniques	6:30 pm
June 19	Legislative Committee	7:30 a.m.
June 21	CCFB Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.

July 2018

July 4	Holiday - Office Closed	
July 9	Women's Committee	9:30 a.m.
July 10	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 a.m.
July 12	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
July 12	Land Use	6:30 p.m.
July 12	Young Ag Leaders	6:30 pm
July 14	CDL Training	
July 17	Legislative Committee	7:30 a.m.
July 19	CCFB Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.

Women's Committee

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Women's Committee is open to all women members of the Champaign County 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:

June 11th, Smith House, 400 S. Main, Tuscola, IL.
Brunch at 9:30AM. Meeting to follow.

Cost is \$8.75 and reservation is required by calling 352-5235.

June 18th - Kitchen Tips and Techniques at 6:30PM. Farm Bureau Auditorium. All women and friends are invited.
Reservation required by calling 352-5235. No cost.

July 9th. 9:30 Meeting at CCFB Auditorium.
Lunch at Houlihan's following the meeting.

Opportunity to Fine Tune Your Kitchen Tips & Techniques

Have you wanted to become an expert in your kitchen? Do you want to increase your efficiency and look like a TV chef? If so, you will want to attend the women's committee sponsored kitchen tips and techniques on 6-18-18 at 6:30 PM at the Farm Bureau auditorium. This free seminar is open to all women of the Farm Bureau and your friends as well. Reserve a spot by calling Brenda at the Farm Bureau at 352-5235

Lisa Lewey-Shields, our presenter, is a regular 2nd Tuesday guest on CI Living. She has a strong agricultural background, as her farmer father ran a 5,000 hen operation and he also taught agriculture and served as an FFA advisor. Lisa embraced agricultural and consumer sciences. In 2011 she sent in a home video for the WCIA Top Home Chef competition. She was runner-up out of the 12 finalists. After the winner moved to South Carolina, Lisa moved up to take her place as WCIA top home chef. After a few episodes on the morning show, Lisa moved to her regular spot on the afternoon



Lisa Lewey-Shields

series of CI Living. Lisa's regular monthly segment recently has been sponsored by Harvest Market of Champaign.

You will not want to miss this stimulating event. Dessert will be served by our own women's committee chefs.

Register Now CDL Prep Course

July 14

There will be a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) prep course on Saturday, July 14, 2018 at 7:30 a.m. in the CCFB Auditorium. The class will cover general knowledge of CDLs: air brakes, combination vehicles, tankers, doubles and triples, passenger vehicles and hazardous materials.

A CDL is required to drive any of the following: any combination vehicle with a Gross Combination Weight Rating of 26,001 pounds or more, providing the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of the vehicle being towed is more than 10,000 pounds; any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more or any such vehicle towing another not in excess of 10,000 pounds; any vehicle designed to transport 15 or more people and any vehicle required by federal law to be placarded while transporting hazardous materials.

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

Cost: \$50 for Farm Bureau members
\$55 for non-members.

Registration Form - CDL PREP COURSE

Send with payment to CCFB, 801 N Country Fair Dr., Champaign IL 61821
Registration Deadline - Monday, July 9, 2018

Name _____

Address _____

Drivers License # _____ Phone/Cell/Work _____

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Knowledge | <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger Vehicles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Brakes | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Combination Vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> Tankers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles/Triples | |

Unity FFA Petting Zoo Allows Kids To Take A Close Look At Agriculture

By Shannon Flavin, Chapter Reporter



5124: Unity elementary students get to experience the inside of Ed and Kenny Decker's combine. Unity Junior High Members Phillip Hartke and Shane Ogden assist students on and off the combine.

Despite the cold weather, children from Unity East, Unity West, and St. Thomas Catholic Elementary School enjoyed a petting zoo hosted by the Unity FFA Chapter throughout the day on Tuesday, April 17th. Preschoolers through second graders came prepared wearing coats and smiles to get hands on experience with the variety of animals and tractors. This year, the petting zoo included chickens, goats, pigs, cows, miniature donkeys, bunnies, and a mule that made all of the kids smile. Other big hits were the tractors and equipment set up for the children. They had a blast climbing up the big steps into the seats to honk the horns and pretend to drive. The children also had the chance to make pipe cleaner bracelets with UV color changing beads and glow in the dark beads. Many of the children took advantage of the opportunity, and couldn't wait to see the beads change colors in the sun and glow in the dark at night.

To educate the children about the many dangers on a farm, the students could watch a grain safety demonstration to teach them that even

What's New in Agriculture at Parkland?



Darcy Nekolny (Oakwood High School) practices flying a Phantom 4 drone using UAS simulator software at the Parkland College workshop.

Parkland College has been awarded its second National Science Foundation (NSF) grant of \$364,000 for the development for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) curriculum. The grant is managed through the Department of Aviation and will be utilized across a broad spectrum of programs including Precision Agriculture.

News to Share:

Parkland College receives NSF grant to develop Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) curriculum – Mandy Briggs, Assistant Chief Instructor of Aviation and the Principle Investigator of the new grant is working with the Agriculture program to incorporate UAS courses into the Precision Ag curriculum beginning fall 2018. Commercial UAS Ground School is the newest course added to the Precision Ag degree and certificate. The course is designed to prepare students to pass the FAA written exam to become a commercially certified UAS operator. Also, beginning fall 2018, Parkland will offer a 6-hour

Unmanned Aircraft Systems certificate which includes two courses: Commercial UAS Ground School and Introduction to UAS Flight. Mandy Briggs states "I'm excited to be a part of this opportunity in emerging technologies and to provide our students with the necessary training to be successful in their respective industries."

Jenni Fridgen, Agriculture Program Director, says "this grant opens up so many opportunities to provide our agriculture students with the skills and knowledge now required by the industry. I've had the pleasure of working with Mandy on another NSF (Precision Ag Curriculum Enhancement) grant and I can't think of a more qualified individual to lead Parkland's UAS curriculum." Jenni and Mandy recently conducted an emerging technologies workshop for high school agriculture teachers for UAS and Precision Ag technologies. The teachers received hands-on experience with precision ag software and UAS simulators.

though grain bins may look fun to play in, they can be extremely dangerous.

The FFA members involved in the planning and organizing of the event strive to improve the petting zoo each year, and this year they decided to add fifth graders. Kids of all ages always look forward to the event, so the members decided to give the fifth graders one last chance to experience it before junior high. The fifth graders enjoyed the same activities as the younger children, but to add a little more to their experience, they got to play games as well as learn a lesson on corn. Those children were set on a rotation schedule so they were able to experience every part of the petting zoo. Each FFA member that brought animals made a poster that included fun facts about their animals. The posters were displayed on the animals' pen. The fifth graders were awarded prizes after they filled out a worksheet that corresponded with the information on the posters. At the game station, education and fun were combined. One game involved being asked questions about the animals they've seen, given multiple choice answers, and running to the correct answer. Another game was a straw bale race. The students had fun running with the bales and encouraging their teammates the cross the finish line first. In the classroom, the students got to learn about when corn was planted and harvested and the variety of products corn is used in.



The Unity FFA ag expo had tractors of all sizes. Special thanks to Greg Stierwalt of Sadorus for bringing the tractor and planter.

4-H Yesterday, Today, And Tomorrow

4-H clubs were first formed in 1902 in Ohio, when A.B. Graham started a club called "The Tomato Club" or the "Corn Growing Club". T.A. Erickson followed suit that year by establishing an agriculture club in Minnesota. Jessie Field Shambaugh came up with the Clover logo in 1910, and by 1912, clubs started identifying as "4-H Clubs."

With such a long history of clubs throughout Illinois, 4-H members have been embracing the 4-H motto "Making the Best Better" for nearly a century. In Champaign County alone, over 600 youth continue to take this saying to heart by contributing to their communities through volunteerism and community service.

Just last fall, over fifty 4-H members, leaders and friends in Champaign County stepped in to help their peers with cancer. The Champaign Mixed Clovers 4-H Club celebrated their eleventh annual "Kids Helping Kids" sew-a-thon by making 20 bags, 25 pillowcases, and 12 tied fleece blankets for pediatric cancer patients and neonatal babies in Illinois.

The youth involved in 4-H feel the importance of community service on a personal level. After participating in the sew-a-thon, Champaign Mixed Clovers member Gabe Yallaly expressed his feeling of hope he received by helping others, stating "If I'm ever walking around and see the bags, I'll be like 'wow, I helped make that.' I'll know I helped that other kid. And that makes me happy."

In addition to community service

projects, such as the sew-a-thon, youth in 4-H meet monthly and work together on projects, ranging from livestock to sewing, cooking to photography, and everything in-between. There are even 16 Special Interest Clubs throughout the county that focus on topics including robotics, dog obedience, archery, and rabbit agility.

Through the many years that 4-H has been a part of Champaign County, youth have always strived to be models of the four H's: Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. Through "Head," they learn to make sound decisions as well as set goals and stick with them. Through "Heart," they learn to act with integrity and accountability. Through "Hands," they learn to put the needs of the community before themselves. Through "Health," they learn to actively take care of their minds and bodies.

4-H members love becoming better people by participating in community service and completing projects. Olivia Shike, member of the Sadorus All Stars 4-H Club, stated, "4-H challenges me to be a better person, work hard, and serve others. Plus, it's lots of fun and you learn new things every day!"

4-H clubs are open to youth ages 5-18 and generally meet monthly. A \$20 annual fee covers involvement in 4-H clubs, and fee waiver applications are available. If you are interested in learning more about joining a club near you, contact the University of Illinois Extension office in Champaign at 217.333.7672.



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KIRK BULTA
Executive Director



MYLA MUNRO
Earth Partners Coordinator

Andersons Golf Benefit for Kids

Golfers from around the area come together for a day of fun on the golf course; but the event is much larger than golf! The Andersons, along with numerous corporate and individual sponsors provide the opportunity for community members to impact the lives of children.

For over two decades The Andersons Golf Benefit for Kids has played an important role in our community; providing support for the Foundation's Earth Partners program, and the important resources offered by Crisis Nursery. Experienced golfers, and amateur's alike, are drawn to the event because of the work completed by Crisis Nursery and Earth Partners.

Crisis Nursery creates an "Island of Safety" dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect by providing a 24-hour emergency care for children and support to strengthen families in crisis. Not only is the Crisis Nursery the only emergency-based child care facility open 24 hours in the Champaign-Urbana community, their programs also aim to build stronger families.

The CCFB Foundation's Earth Partners programs take agriculture into the classroom throughout Champaign County. Earth Partners provides food and agricultural lessons and classroom resources free of charge to classrooms throughout Champaign. In addition to classroom lessons, Earth Partners provides teacher resources and continuing education. All lessons meet learning standards and implement hands on agricultural-related activities as a means of educating students in the areas of Science, Mathematics, English language arts, and more.

Representatives of both Earth Partners and Crisis Nursery will be on hand at this year's event to discuss their programs and talk with golfers about how their day on the course translates to the impacting youth in our communities.

Sponsorships are still available and golf team registration is in full swing! For more information visit the Farm Bureau Foundation website at www.ccfbfoundation.com or contact Benefit Chairman Brian Stark at The Andersons in Champaign.

Munro Honored by FFA Members

This school year our Earth Partners Coordinator, Myla Munro, along with student mentors from the University Of Illinois College Of ACES have worked with the Unity FFA Chapter and Agriculture Department to kick off our Ag Discovery Program! Through this program, Munro has worked closely with the department to build their chapter's awareness about careers in agriculture.

Recently, Munro was honored with the award of an Honorary Chapter FFA Degree from the Unity FFA Chapter. This award is bestowed upon someone that the chapter feels has gone above and beyond to assure the success of the chapter and provide exceptional service throughout the year.

The CCFB Foundation enjoys every opportunity to work with some of Illinois's top FFA chapters here in



Pictured: Myla Munro (left) with Unity FFA President (Carson Robinson) and Reporter (Lindsey Decker)

Champaign County. We also greatly appreciate this recognition for our strong bond with the chapter to kick off a successful program that we hope will continue for many years to come.

Celebrating National Dairy Month

Since 1937, June has been the month to honor dairy farmers for the delicious foods that their cows provide by turning grass and grains into milk and other dairy products! June Dairy Month is also time to remind consumers of the many health benefits that milk, cheese and yogurt deliver. Loaded with calcium, potassium, protein and phosphorus, dairy foods contribute significant nutrition to Americans' diets.

While the celebration of dairy farmers spans just one month, their dedication to "hands-on" work runs year-round. Dairy farmers are committed to producing safe, high-quality milk and dairy products 365 days a year. And that commitment to quality means taking good care of their animals and the land around them. It also means more than simply milking their cows. It means looking at everything from what they feed their cows to water conservation to the development of renewable energy sources.

"Consumers are searching for a connection to where their food comes from," notes St. Louis District Dairy Council dietitian Monica Nyman. "June Dairy Month is an ideal time to spotlight dairy farmers—and the real work they put into producing safe wholesome products."

As we continue the more than 75-year tradition of celebrating dairy foods this month, let's keep it real by honoring the hardworking devoted dairy farmers who make it all possible. Here's to dairy farmers—they are the real deal!

Facts and Fun:

It only takes **2-3 days** for milk to get from the farm to your table.

Chocolate milk has **more nutrients** than most sports drinks.

Dairy cattle are called **ruminants** because they have multiple compartments in their digestive system.

Ice Cream in a Bag

Cool off this summer and enjoy a homemade treat!

Materials:

- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup whipping cream or half & half
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 quart size zip top freezer bag
- 1 gallon size zip top freezer bag
- crushed ice (1 bag of ice will freeze 3 bags of ice cream)
- 1 cup rock salt (approximately 8 cups per 5 lbs.)
- Duct tape
- Bath towel
- Serving dishes
- Spoons

Directions

1. Pour the milk, whipping cream, sugar, and vanilla in a 1 quart freezer bag and seal. For security, fold a piece of duct tape over the seal.
2. Place the quart sized bag with the ingredients inside a gallon sized freezer bag.
3. Pack the larger bag with crushed ice around the smaller bag. Pour $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cup of salt evenly over the ice. Fold a piece of duct tape over the seal.
4. Wrap in a bath towel and shake for 10 minutes. Open the outer bag and remove the inner bag with the ingredients. Wipe off the bag to be sure salt water doesn't get into the ice cream.
5. Cut off one of the bottom corners and squeeze into serving dishes.
6. Makes about 3 cups.
7. Serve plain or top with nuts, chocolate syrup or fruit. ENJOY!

On average, each dairy cow produces enough milk to fill **125 glasses**. That's about 8 gallons per day!

Before modern milking machines, a farmer could milk about six cows by hand in one hour. Now, farmers can milk **over 100 cows in an hour!**

Milk collected from dairy cows is **cooled to 45 degrees F or less within two hours** of the completion of milking in order to reduce the possibility of bacteria growth.

When antibiotics are used to treat or cure an illness, the treated cow's milk is **discarded and does not enter the human food system!**

Cheese **protects teeth** from acids that can weaken tooth enamel.

Dairy foods are the **number one source of calcium** for Americans.

Each year, US dairy farmers provide milk to make more than **1 billion pounds of butter, 7 billion pounds of cheese and 1 billion gallons of ice cream.**

Want to know more about where your dairy products come from? Head over to www.wherismymilkfrom.com, enter the code printed on your milk, yogurt, cottage cheese and more; to find out more about where your favorite products are coming from!



Nathan Hubbard
COUNTRY Financial
Agency Manager



Rhonda Wagner
Administrative Assistant
Champaign Agency



Dan Punkay
328-0023

Welcome Rhonda Wagner

Administrative Assistant Champaign Agency



Bret Kroencke
359-9391



Travis Heath
352-4555



Chuck Rippy
586-5030



Keith Garrett
485-3010



Chris Greenwold
355-8675



Jessie DeHaan
352-3466

I am originally from Watseka, IL but have lived in Danville since 1989. I moved to Danville to marry the love of my life, Tom, and have been married since 1990. We have 2 sons, Mason, 22 years old, graduated from SIU Carbondale last May with a dual degree in Computer & Electrical Engineering. Mason is employed by Cummins Diesel in Columbus IN where he resides. Riley, 20 years old is completing his 2nd year at SIU Carbondale studying Computer & Electrical Engineering as well. He will be doing an internship at Cummins Diesel in Columbus IN this summer. It will be great to have them both only a couple of hours away for the summer. I also can't forget my favorite dog, Mabel, a 7 year old Goldendoodle, who is a big part of our family as well.



Dan Duitsman
469-2033



Stan Ochs
352-3296

Our family loves to camp and watch the Chicago Cubs, as we are die-hard fans. Our newest interest, since we have become empty-nesters, is making wine.

I have been with COUNTRY Financial for 3 ½ years as an Agency Office Assistant for the Illini East Agency and soon the Champaign Vermilion Agency. My job is very fulfilling and I look forward to working in Champaign County. I love working with all of the Financial Reps and their assistants, they have become family. I feel like I learn something new every day and love coming to work! I will be working in both the Danville office for 2 days a week and the Champaign office for 3 days a week, days to be determined.



John May
352-3341



Terry Hill
469-9800



Austin Beaty
217-352-0012



Jim Nelson
892-4479



Aaron Wheeler
586-6170



Scott Jackson
359-9335



Dawn Babb
892-4479



Andrew Deedrich
359-3941



Steve Derry
352-2655



MARK THORNSBROUGH,
GENERAL MANAGER

Focusing On M.O.M. With N-Tracker: An Update

M.O.M. is a palindrome, a word that reads the same way forward or backward. What it stands for can also be interpreted to be the same. **M**aximizing input utilization, **O**ptimizing harvest yield, while **M**inimizing environmental impact. Regardless of reading it forward or backward, it is all about maximizing input utilization to improve farm economics which will minimize environmental impact of production agriculture. If you use it, you won't lose it.

The secret to making M.O.M. a sustainable approach to nutrient stewardship is the improvement of farm income. If all of the N purchased and applied is utilized by the plant, there would be no gaseous loss into our air or leaching losses into our water resources. With nitrogen (N) earning a position of the second greatest input cost to corn production, and a primary focus when it comes to water quality, it is easy to understand why a focus on N can have both economic and environmental benefits.

Nitrogen is a significant part of our soil's ecosystem, losses cannot be eliminated. The use of the word "Minimize" best describes what can be done. There will always be N loss into the environment even without production agriculture.

Are soil tests for N still valid? Once corn reaches the rapid stage of growth (V6-7), it will be nearly impossible to inventory soil N, since it will be taking up a significant amount of N with soil water (fast growing corn plants). If you want a reason to apply N pre-tassel simply take a soil test for plant-available N. The test will show very little N in the upper profile (upper 2 feet), creating a falsely-based panic situation. N-TRACKER has consistently detected less than 100 pounds of plant-available N close to the time of tassel emergence. Do you want to see just how much N is released by breakdown of soil organic matter? Simply remove the crop (and weeds) from a five-foot square area of the field. Collect N-TRACKER samples every two weeks and watch what happens to the amount of plant-available N in the soil. Compare the bare soil test to an adjacent site that still has plants to remove soil N and compare the two. It makes a great idea for a high school FFA or science project. Interested? Visit with your local Illini FS crop specialist about setting up such a study.

Yellowish-colored corn plants. The cold early Spring slowed soil release of organically-bound nutrients, such as nitrogen, phosphorus and sulfur (mineralization). As a result, plants had less opportunity to find enough plant nutrition in close proximity of the seedling root system to meet the plant's demand. Traffic compaction, herbicide overlap, etc. have amplified the temporary deficiency symptoms due to plant root systems being exposed to the micro-environment differences. Normal color will return to most of the affected fields as the soil warms and mineralization meets the plant's demand for sulfur and nitrogen.

Localized areas of continued yellowish-colored corn is anticipated where the sulfur content of the upper soil profile is low. A supplemental application of sulfate-S will likely be followed by a color response (turning green). The economic benefit of the application can only be measured by a yield check at harvest-time. Research in northeastern Iowa showed a 10 to 12 bushel/acre harvest-time response to sulfate-S when the corn was expressing a yellowish color applied up to knee-high.

Many local soybean fields may appear to be a lighter color of green than in 2017. The cold early Spring temperatures slowed soil release of N (mineralization) due to a slow start-up of the microbial population. Soybean plants rely on soil residual N until about 2 weeks after emergence. It takes that length of time for development of soil rhizobia nodules that begin to fix atmospheric N and provide it to the plant (referred to as N fixation by soil bacteria). Once environmental conditions allow for rhizobia growth and development on soybean roots, a normal green color should return.

Watch for green strips or patches of soybeans. Illini FS established ten local trials focusing on N management in soybeans. Pre-plant N was applied and an additional application of N will be applied when the plant reaches late bloom (R2) or early pod (R3). The applications will make plant color a darker green. However, the purpose of the replicated trials is to determine if soybean N management in 2018 provided an economic return to the N investment. Ask your local Illini FS Crop Specialist to provide you our Mi-Field Data Summary after harvest this fall.

ILLINI FS – THE HOME OF N-TRACKER (*What's N-Tracker Telling Us So Far?*)

Soil Residual N - Sixty to 80 pounds of residual plant-available N (PAN) was detected in the upper two feet of the soil profile. Nearly all sites evaluated for residual N were sampled after the 2017 harvest but before any N applications were made (except a few ammoniated phosphate fertilizer applications).

All N applied so far is still there. It was common to subtract 60 pounds residual N from what N-TRACKER detects in the upper 2 feet and to determine what was applied and be within 20 pounds (or less) of what was applied so far. This is pretty close when dealing with a natural resource (soil) that holds 95% of the soil's N in a form the plant cannot have but can be released or tied-up through the activity of its living fraction, macro and microorganisms. Nitrogen is a major component of a healthy soil regardless of whether crops are grown.

Many participants are "On Target" with N. What N-TRACKER suggested to apply and what several participants were planning to apply was within 10 to 20 pounds N. There are still a few participants that would profit by trying 50 to 70 pounds less N than planned. No sites have found that more N is needed to meet the 2018 corn crop's N requirement than has been planned.

N-TRACKER offers a premium N Management tool. Plants utilize both nitrate and ammonium-N and have root systems that extensively explore the upper two feet of the soil profile. N-TRACKER samples are collected from the upper two feet of the soil profile in 1-foot increments and are tested for both nitrate and ammonium-N. N-TRACKER samples are tested at a certified lab that properly prepares samples for analysis (dries and pulverizes). Most other businesses offering N testing services collect samples to a depth of 12 inches and only evaluate samples for nitrate-N, not correcting for soil moisture.

N-TRACKER is a valuable tool. Don't believe it, try it. Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist to sign-up for a site starting after harvest this fall.

Illini FS announces Enduring Farm award winner

Farmers recognized for implementing sustainable crop practices

URBANA, ILL (May 2018) – Illini FS, along with GROWMARK Inc., are recognizing farmers who implement sustainable nutrient management practices such as following the 4R principals for all nutrient applications; monitoring nitrogen levels through soil sampling; and implementing variable rate technology for phosphorous applications. The award recognizes farmers who have adopted practices that optimize nutrient utilization, leading to positive long-term soil and water quality, while enhancing return on investment.

In the Illini FS service area, John Reifsteck of Champaign was named as an *Enduring Farm*. All winners and a full list of specific criteria can be found here: <https://www.fssystem.com/Sustainability/Enduring-Farms>.

"Farmers know that their operations and the world's natural resources can all thrive within the same ecosystem, said Mark Thornsborough, general manager of Illini FS. "More than ever, they are assessing cropping practices and operational processes that will minimize impact on the environment

while improving farm profitability."

Nominations for *Enduring Farms* recognition were submitted by each grower's FS crop specialist based on specific sustainable practices implemented on their farms. Nutrient management cropping practices were implemented during the 2017 growing season. All *Enduring Farms* will be provided N-WATCH™ services to measure results of a nutrient management trial conducted on their farm during the 2018 growing season.

"FS Companies work with many farmers who excel at preserving and improving their land and natural resources for future generations," explained Matt Hynes, Illini FS marketing manager. "Tools such as FS Advanced Information Services, MRTN, soil sampling, and sophisticated custom application services help farmers follow the principles of 4R nutrient stewardship to develop and execute phosphorus and nitrogen management plans."

Nominations for 2018 *Enduring Farms* will be submitted and reviewed after harvest.

Time to Explore Propane Buying Options and Leak Checks

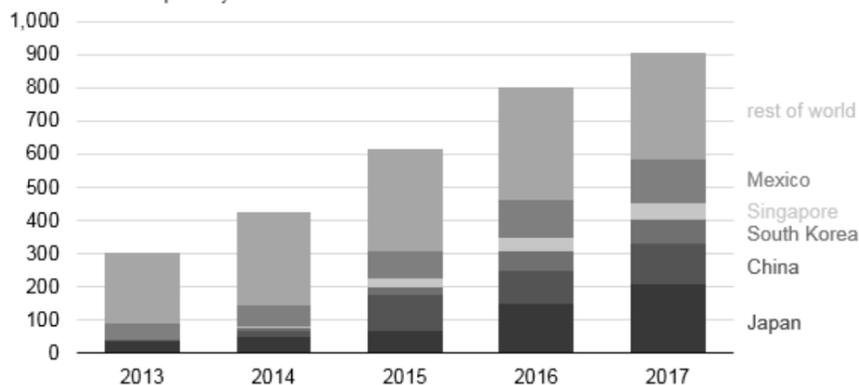
Propane usage is up and users may not be aware of why the price is reflecting that. Why the increase in cost? Dave Rich, Illini FS Propane and Retail Marketing Manager, points to several factors driving prices, “this past winter was a more normal winter than we have had in the last few years. However, customers had their furnaces running into the end of April due to late snow and cold temperatures. Propane exports are also up. In 2013, the U.S. exported 300,000 barrels of propane per day and this has jumped to 905,000 barrels in 2017. While exports are good for the economy it affects us in the pocket book. Propane reserves in the fall of 2017 and winter of 2018 were also lower than the 5 year average.” Customers are also experiencing sticker shock at the gas pump, too. Dave attributes this to “the cost of crude oil being at a 3 ½ year high. Demand for crude oil and exports have also increased.” Illini FS works closely with GROWMARK’S Energy Risk Management team to try and contract propane at the best

time of the year for its customers.

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 offers customers several buying options to fit everyone’s financial situation including

- **Summer Fill** – Illini FS will fill your tank now through August 31st with deferred payment until September 25th. Take delivery now and you will be ready to go in the fall!
- **Even Pay/Budget Billing** – Even Pay/Budget Billing allows customers to make monthly payments based on the average number of gallons used in an 11 month period. The month of May is used to make up any difference in usage.
- **Prepay Program** – June and July are typically great months to participate in Illini FS’s prepay program. Propane prices are typically lower in the summer months. Prepaying allows customers to lock in a price and save money! No minimum or maxi-

U.S. propane exports by destination
thousand barrels per day



imum purchase required. These contracts are for gallons used September 1 through March 31st.

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 to its customers. 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!

Champaign County Gvt.

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EMA is currently working with houses of worship to ensure that their emergency plans are in place not only if they are affected by a disaster, but also how they can shelter victims, provide meals, and counsel victims. Another hot topic facing victims during a disaster is the desire to keep pets safe and with their humans. Farmers facing disease outbreaks in livestock and crop production issues, such as a strawberry blight in other parts of the country, are also hot topics being covered by EMA departments in Illinois. Working together and finding resources when disaster strikes is vital to overcoming adversity.

Over the past year, EMA and the Champaign County Farm Bureau have been working together to develop a partnership. John says, “Farming is so important in our county. We want to keep farm bureau members informed and connected to EMA!” Rural members are often times the eyes on the ground when severe weather strikes. A recent Storm Spotter training, hosted by CCFB and EMA, pulled in 150 participants, “radar doesn’t always indicate good or bad. People can see things not on radar,” according to John. EMA is always on call during a storm. Watching the radar, maintaining contact with the weather service, and activating spotters if needed. EMA keeps the weather service informed about local weather and if a severe storm hits EMA, working with local officials, determines what needs to be done.

EMA does a lot of work behind the scenes that most people don’t think about including being fully engaged during the Illinois Marathon, coordinating snow plows during snow storms to lead ambulance and police, and sharing information with dispatch when Monsanto and Pioneer have workers in local fields.

John is quick to give Champaign County a big pat on the back saying, “This community works well together! We have the best first responders. I have one big piece of advice from EMA – Get a NOAA Weather Alert Radio!”

EMA Action Center

SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Residents of Illinois Affected by Severe Storms and Flooding



Vermillion and Warren in Indiana.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at Disasterloan.sba.gov.



Businesses and individuals may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing), or by emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can also be downloaded at www.sba.gov/disaster. Completed applications should be returned to a center or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.



The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is July 6, 2018. The deadline to return economic injury applications is Feb. 7, 2019.

For more information about the SBA’s Disaster Loan Program, visit www.sba.gov/disaster. **SKYWARN Spotter Sign Up**

To register with National Weather Service Lincoln as a SKYWARN Spotter. Go to: www.weather.gov/ilx/spotter#Criteria Must be at least 18 years of age



Illinois businesses and residents affected by the severe storms and flooding from Feb. 14 through March 4, 2018, can apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, SBA Administrator Linda McMahan announced today.

Administrator McMahan made the loans available in response to a letter from Gov. Bruce Rauner on April 27, requesting a disaster declaration by the SBA. The declaration covers Iroquois, Kankakee and Vermilion counties and the adjacent counties of Champaign, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Grundy, Livingston and Will in Illinois; and Benton, Lake, Newton,



June 11th – Marketing Meeting @ CCFB Auditorium

6:30 p.m. - Meal

7 p.m. - Featured Speakers

Amy Sage – The Andersons Inc.

Howard Brown – Illini FS, Agronomics

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU TRIPS & TOURS

July 13 & 14, Dubuque, IA & Galena, IL

Cost per person: \$265.00

Trip includes: transportation, room, 3 meals, show and trolley tour

Deadline: June 13, 2018

Highlights: Driving tour around Dubuque; options to visit the Mississippi River Museum or the Casino; Bell Tower Theatre Kids Show – Honk; trolley tour around Galena, shopping, and fabulous meals.

August 8, Theatre at the Center “The Lady with All the Answers

Cost per person: \$105.00 per person

Trip includes: transportation, lunch and show

Deadline: July 13, 2018 A

Highlights: Travel to Munster, IN, Theater at the Center to see The Lady with all the Answers. The show is about Popular advice columnist Ann Landers who had a life which seemed letter perfect. The play unfolds in Landers Lakeshore Drive apartment in Chicago in 1975 where she shares some of her most fascinating stories as she prepares to write the most difficult column of her career.

October 17 & 18, Southern Illinois

Cost per person: \$325.00 per person

Trip includes: Transportation, hotel, 2-lunches, 1-dinner, 2-wine tastings and museum tour.

Deadline: September 14, 2018

Highlights: General John A. Logan Museum; Von Jakob Vineyard for lunch and wine tasting; Rendleman Orchards; Bald Knob Cross of Peace; Peach Barn at Hedman Vineyards - Wine tasting and dinner; Casey, IL and visit Illinois ASA Hall of Fame; Lunch at Richards Farm Restaurant.



October 26 -27, Family Bus Trip to Louisville – Open to Everyone

Cost per person: under 3 - \$76; Age 4 to 5 - \$125; Age 6 to 14 - \$160; Age 15 to 18 - \$175; Adult - \$255 per person DBL; Adult - \$313 per person SINGLE

Trip includes: Transportation, hotel, Highlights: Dinner at Guy Fieri’s Smokehouse; Jack O’ Lantern Spectacular; Churchill Downs; Saturday Box Lunch; Choice of Tour of Louisville Slugger Museum or Bulleit Frontier Whiskey.

Deadline: September 4

November 2 – 5, Christmas in Branson 2018

Cost per person: \$527.00 per person DB - \$627.00 per person SGLE

Trip includes: Transportation, lodging, 5 meals and 6 shows

Deadline: September 28, 2018

Highlights: St. James Winery; Grand Country Buffet; Dutton’s Show; Texas Tenors Show; Daniel O’Donnell show; dinner at Jacke B Goodes Uptown Diner; Samson at Sight and Sound Theatre; Number 1 Hits of 60’s & 50’s; dinner at Golden Corral; Clay Cooper at Clay Cooper Theatre; Russell Stover Outlet.



Estate & Succession Planning Workshop

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Most of us realize that proper planning is key to success. However, it can still be an overwhelming task. This joint session presented by CliftonLarsonAllen, Champaign County Farm Bureau, COUNTRY Financial, and Senator Scott Bennett will help producers address challenging planning topics. Discussions will include tax changes and issues to address, as well as considerations for succession and retirement planning.

Complimentary/Meal Included

Location

Champaign County Farm Bureau

801 N Country Fair Dr.

Champaign, IL 61821

Phone: 217-352-5235

Schedule

5:30—6:15 - Tax Reform and what it will mean to farmers

6:16—6:45 - Supper featuring Senator Bennett

6:45—7:30 - Estate & Succession Planning tools and discussion

Online Registration by June 8

<https://form.jotform.com/81434169714156>

CCFB Women’s Committee in Action.



Pictured are Ronda Scott and Sharon Duitsman manning the Women’s Committee Road Safety display on May 19th. Carle and community partners presented important safety information to children and their parents.

Take advantage of BRAND NEW CCFB Member Benefits

Events At Refinery

2302 W John St
Champaign, IL 61821
217-693-4441

Website: <https://eventsatrefinery.com/>
Members receive 10% off Room Rental Packages

Profile by Sanford

902 Meijer Drive, Suite 5
Champaign, IL 61822
217-516-3736

Website: <https://www.profileplan.com/champaign/?L=true>
Members receive ½ off the normal Profile by Sanford annual membership fee which is a Savings of \$150! All memberships include a smart scale, 20% off their food, a personalized meal plan and a weekly one on one coaching with Profile by Sanford’s certified coaches.



Featured: Illinois State Trooper Tracy Lillard presenting a Defensive Driving Program to CCFB Members. CCFB Members can take advantage of this program twice per year. Your next opportunity to attend Defensive Driving is September 26 & 27, 8 a.m. to noon, members must attend both days.