



# Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 96, No. 10

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

October, 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



Pictured from left to right: Leanne Brehob-Riley (Director), Kathleen Crombez (Programmer), Tom Reed (Mapping Technician). Not pictured: Nicole Darby (Analyst), Steve Klaas (Technician), Jerry Huey (Specialist)

**Leanne Brehob-Riley** is a natural fit as the Director of the Champaign County GIS Consortium. She has geography in her blood; she is a geographer, the daughter of a geographer, and the wife of a geographer. Leanne is a native of South Bend, IN, but also lived in the Chicago suburbs, Kentucky, and Wyoming before coming to Champaign County.

Leanne points out a connection to geography at an early age saying, “As the daughter of a geography professor, geography, in its many forms, has always been part of my life. While working on my undergraduate at Elmhurst College (IL), I

was exposed to Geographic Information Systems (GIS). I immediately understood its capabilities and applications; I have been hooked since. After receiving my bachelor’s degree in Geography and History, I continued my education and received a MS in Geography. I began my career in GIS with the Village of Mount Prospect (IL). When my husband decided to pursue a graduate degree in geography, we moved to Laramie, Wyoming where I continued my career, working for an environmental consulting firm. My husband’s pursuit of a Ph.D. brought us to Champaign County where we have lived since 2003. Shortly after moving here, I began my

tenure with the Champaign County GIS Consortium (CCGISC).”

The Champaign County GIS Consortium (CCGISC), located in Urbana, is a joint venture formed by an intergovernmental agreement in September of 2002. CCGISC was created in order to secure the benefits of data collection and analysis at the county-wide scale and to share the cost of implementation, maintenance, and data acquisition. Champaign County is the lead agency of this joint venture. The seven members of the Champaign County GIS Consortium include:

- Champaign County
- City of Champaign
- City of Urbana
- Village of Rantoul
- Village of Savoy
- Village of Mahomet
- University of Illinois

The activities of CCGISC are directed by the CCGISC Policy Committee. CCGISC provides member agencies and County residents with high-quality regional GIS data and services that improve cooperation, cohesiveness, and efficiency within and among agencies.

Examples of specific functions include:

- Maintains the Champaign County cadastral base within an Enterprise GIS. This includes parcels, lots, subdivisions, annexations, municipal boundaries, tax districts, etc.
- Maintains a county-wide relational address database. Addressing authorities (incorporated entities) within Champaign County, have the ability to obtain the necessary credentials to utilize a web-based map to enter and update addresses.
- Provides address and street centerline data to METCAD, the centralized dispatch center, for Champaign County
- Develops and distributes publicly accessible web-based maps and apps, such as [www.maps.ccgisc.org](http://www.maps.ccgisc.org)
- Develops and distributes GIS data and web-based apps to the County and other member agency departments
- Completes a wide variety of quality control tasks to ensure data integrity between the GIS

Continue Leanne Brehob-Riley page 2

## Behind the Scenes at the CCFB

By: Brad Uken

Thank You for being a member of the Champaign County Farm Bureau. On August 31st Champaign County concluded its membership year and what a year it was. This year, thanks to your membership, numerous volunteers recruiting members, and the great Financial Reps with COUNTRY Financial we were able to achieve both our voting and total quota.

This past year, twenty volunteers recruited and signed at least one new voting member and signed a total of 38 new members. Eleven of those twenty volunteers were members of the Board of Directors.

COUNTRY Financial has always been an outstanding partner with the Farm Bureau on a number of

fronts from helping us sponsor events to helping acquire memberships. This past year COUNTRY Financial Representatives signed 611 associate members and 20 voting memberships. Thank You to Vann Parkin and Nathan Hubbard who both acted as Agency Manager for Country Financial during this year. And Thank You to all the Representatives that helped us collect and sign members this year, we couldn’t have done it without you!

What is Voting Quota? And who sets Voting Quota? Voting quota is set on an annual basis by the Illinois Farm Bureau. The number is based on last year’s year end membership results. So this past year, which ended August 31st, our goal was to have

2,505 voting members. Within Farm Bureau, our voting members are those members who are involved in production agriculture or have a career that is part of the agricultural industry. We ended our year with 2,506 voting members. That number places Champaign County with the most voting members in the State of Illinois, something that all of us should be proud of. Another fun fact is that we have had continuous voting membership growth since 2001, another great achievement. Those twenty volunteers who signed voting members were: Benjamin Rice, Brennon Brey-meyer, Chris Hausman, Christi Del-

Continue Behind The Scenes page 7



# October Report

## President, Mike Briggs



As most of you read this harvest will be well underway. I'd like to thank everyone that came out to our safety meetings and our lunch with Representatives Davis and Shimkus at the end of August.

From early reports it sounds like yields are good for corn and beans in most of Champaign County. I hope everyone has a safe and bountiful harvest.

Sincerely,  
Mike Briggs

### Leanne Brehob-Riley continued from Page 1

- and county systems
- Completes initiatives on a county-wide scale rather than placing the burden on the member agencies and/or small communities. For example, CCGISC completed the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) on a county-wide scale. As a result, the smaller units of government did not need to participate in the project.

As the director of this governmental department, Leanne is responsible for CCGISC's 2018 operating budget of approximately \$575,000. According to Leanne, CCGISC is funded by the various member agencies and through external contracts. CCGISC has 6 employees - Mapping Technician, GIS Technician, GIS Specialist, GIS Analyst, GIS Programmer, and GIS Director. Leanne praises the efforts of the CCGISC staff saying, "I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with a skilled and devoted staff. They are dedicated to ensuring the success of CCGISC."

New and emerging technology provides great opportunities for CCGISC, but along with this technology comes challenges that must be addressed. Leanne points out "GIS technology is constantly changing. Staying current with software updates and replacements is always a challenge, but CCGISC makes it a priority in order to continually improve the quality of our services. For example, the Champaign County parcel base was recently migrated to the ESRI Parcel Fabric. The Parcel Fabric is a data model that stores parcels as a continuous surface that utilizes and stores the coordinate geometry (COGO) information of parcels of

land. Within the year we anticipate a number of changes to our current operations. These changes include implementing 1) a cloud-based back-up and recovery system, and 2) new tasks and workflow changes necessary to accommodate possible updates to the County's systems."

### Getting to Know Leanne Brehob-Riley Family Life

I have two children, ages 11 and 8, they are super fun, but they certainly keep me busy outside of work.

### Cubs? Cardinals?

Cubs! I grew up in a Cubs family and spent many summer afternoons with my family in the bleachers of the Friendly Confines.

### Favorite Dessert?

Pie – pecan, sweet potato, and fresh cherry are my favorites

### Bucket list item or something you have recently done that was awesome?

A recent family vacation to Utah, Arizona, and Colorado. We visited a number of National Parks in each of those states. The highlights for me were Capitol Reef and Mesa Verde. In the north-central portion of Capitol Reef, a small group of pioneers settled in a town called Fruita and planted orchards. The National Park Service maintains these orchards and they even sell homemade pies... including cherry. The cliff dwellings in Mesa Verde were nothing short of fascinating.

### Do you have memories of agriculture you can share with us?

My dad grew up in Starke County, IN. His parents lived next to what, at one time, was a mint farm. When I was a child, the mint still grew wild and Dad and I would walk the tractor paths, take in the smell of the mint, talk about the landscape, the history of the area, and his days working the fields.

## Join the Prime Timers!

October 11 starting at 10 a.m.

Speaker: Lynn Doran,  
Young Ag Leader Chair

Entertainment:

The Keenager Kitchen Band

Gerald Henry, Prime Timers Chairman

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month

Cost \$8 to attend

Call 352-5235 ahead of each meeting to reserve your spot

Mark your calendar for future meetings!

November 8  
December 13



## Young Ag Leaders

### October-November Schedule of Events

Friday, Oct. 19th - 6:30 pm

#### Social Bonfire

Lynn's House - 2723 CR 700 E, Fisher, IL  
Snacks provided, BYOB and chair. Guests welcome.

Thursday, Nov. 8th- 6:30 pm

#### Business Meeting

Scotty's Brewhouse - 2001 S. Neil St, Champaign, IL

## VETERANS: Mark your Calendars for Monday, Nov. 12!

The Women's Committee is inviting veterans from our membership, along with their spouse, for a special breakfast at 8AM on Nov 12. We are planning a panel presentation with veterans from different eras of service. You will not want to miss this event. Veterans in attendance will receive a specially designed cap to thank you for your service to our country. Reserve your spot by calling the Farm Bureau office at 352-5235.

## CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU SALUTES OUR VETERAN MEMBERS



Monday | Nov. 12 | 8 AM

801 N. COUNTRY FAIR DR.

CHAMPAIGN, IL

RSVP REQUIRED: (217) 352-5235

Veterans: The Champaign County Farm Bureau Women's Committee will be hosting a breakfast in your honor for your service and protection of our country and freedom. 50 Veterans will receive a specially designed Farm Bureau veteran hat as a token of our appreciation.



## CCFb Calendar of Events October 2018

October 11	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
October 19	YAL Social/Bonfire	6:30 p.m.

NOTE – Most committees DO NOT meet in October.

## November 2018

November 8	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
November 13	Legislative Committee	7:30 a.m.
November 13	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 a.m.
November 14	Women's Committee Web Workshop	
November 15	Full Board	6:30 p.m.
November 22-23	Office Closed - Holiday	



# Rantoul FFA Highlights



It was an exciting summer for the Rantoul FFA Chapter. In June, thirteen students attended the State Convention in Springfield, Illinois, where they meet other FFA members from across the state, listened to a

keynote speaker and watch one of their own, Adam Crites, receive his FFA State Degree; the highest honor an FFA member can achieve at the state level. A few weeks later, seven FFA members traveled to Washing-

ton D.C. to attend a week long leadership conference. During their week at Washington Leadership Conference, the members visited National Monuments, toured governmental buildings and met other FFA members from across the nation. The students that had the opportunity to attend this conference recall the trip as being a life changing experience they wish everyone had the opportunity to encounter.

The start of the school year brought many changes for the Agriculture program and FFA chapter in the form of two new agriculture teachers and FFA Advisors; Nick Cotter and Megan Vogt. The officer team, under the guidance of the new advisors, started planning upcoming events, such as Welcome Back Cookout, an event for current and new FFA members and their families. The Rantoul FFA Chapter also volunteered at Ag Safety Day at Gordyville, an event



for local elementary and junior high students. September was a busy month for Rantoul FFA members. Many attended Career Development Events, such as the Land Use Soil Judging Contest, and others traveled to Normal Illinois to participate in Elite Conference, a conference for students that

have an interest in pursuing a career in Agriculture Education.

But as one busy month comes to a close, another one begins. Upcoming events for the Rantoul FFA Chapter in October include Feed the Farmers, RTHS Football Senior Night "Best Seat in the House" Fundraiser, Chapter Pumpkin Carving, and National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. If you would like to stay up to date on all things happening in the Rantoul FFA Chapter, like our facebook page for event updates and information!



## Mahomet-Seymour FFA Update

The Agriculture Department at Mahomet-Seymour recently has had several changes. Over the past decade, the enrollment in classes and the FFA has witnessed a steady increase in membership. The FFA Chapter at the printing of this article has an influx in its current membership with a total at 134! In addition, these students will have a unique opportunity to explore the Agriculture industry through a variety of classes and topics in the recently remodeled Agriculture areas. Through a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education, Farm Credit Illinois, and a donation from the White family, the program has been able to remodel its learning lab areas and reorganize its storage areas to maximize space for student learning. Plus, it has been able to increase its opportunities to technology and upgrade its electrical for

better opportunities for student learning. Through the summer months, the department has implemented a modernized science laboratory sink, increased multi-media tools for the area, and installed several technological learning monitors. The program appreciates these improvements and donations/grants and looks forward to students having the opportunity to apply real world learning concepts from the Agriculture industry in the classroom daily at Mahomet-Seymour High School.



## COMING SOON! CITRUS SALE

Stay tuned to Facebook,  
[www.ccfarmbureau.com](http://www.ccfarmbureau.com), and  
The Friday Leader for order forms  
and pricing.







CCFBFOUNDATION.COM



/CCFBFOUNDATION



/CCFB\_FOUNDATION



**KIRK BULTA**  
Executive Director



**SARAH KAPER**  
Earth Partners Director

## Foundation to host 2018 Harvest Gala in November

Supporting the future of Agriculture has long been the mission of the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation and the organization's 11th Annual Harvest Gala will do just that. Over the years, the Gala has brought together a broad audience of farm and business leaders and community members to become Champaign County's premier harvest time event.

The November 16th Harvest Gala will include traditional events such as silent and live auctions, a cocktail reception and harvest dinner provided by L.A. Gourmet Catering. The silent auction will feature Illini men's basketball tickets, handmade jewelry, artwork, hunting items and over 50 other fantastic items. This

year's live auction will include exclusive experiences that you won't find anywhere else. You won't want to miss the Gala's dessert auction! This perennial favorite will include delicious homemade treats sure to please your sweet tooth.

This year's 11th Annual Harvest Gala will be held on November 16th 2018 at Pear Tree Estate, 2150 County Road 1000 East in Champaign, Illinois. The evening's activities begin at 5:30 p.m. with the silent auction and cocktail reception followed by a dinner prepared by L.A. Gourmet to be served at 7:00 p.m. Tickets sales will begin October 1st at [www.ccfbfoundation.com](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com) or by calling the Farm Bureau office at

(217) 352-5235.

Last year's Harvest Gala sold out in just two weeks. Don't miss out on this great event – order your tickets today!

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation provides educational opportunities that impact the future of the food and agricultural industry in Champaign County, and around the world. Since its inception in 1986, the Foundation is proud to have provided over 415 Champaign County students the encouragement, and financial resources to succeed in college. In addition, the Foundation's Earth Partners program takes Agriculture to the Classroom by educating over 9,000 students annually and

### 11th Annual Harvest Gala

Friday, November 16, 2018

Hosted by Pear Tree Estate  
2150 CR 1000 East—Champaign, IL



Doors Open at 5:30 P.M.

Silent Auction & Cocktail Reception

Harvest Dinner by LA Gourmet

Dessert & Live Auction

Order Your Tickets Today!

Register online at

[www.ccfbfoundation.com](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com)

Or pay by phone by calling (217) 352-5235

Your \$75 Ticket includes dinner, drinks, and a night full of fun in support of the CCFB Foundation and the future of Champaign County Agriculture.

A limited number of tickets are available—order TODAY!

helps to connect students to the food system while promoting agriculture's importance in our local communities.

## 2018 Harvest Gala Offers Seed For Our Future

Plant your next crop...and plant seeds for the future!

Returning to this year's Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation Harvest Gala is our popular "Seeds for our Future" program. Local

seed corn dealers have joined forces for a common cause; to support the Foundation through seed donations.

AgriGold, DeKalb and Pioneer will feature 12 bags of your choice of corn seed at the gala's live

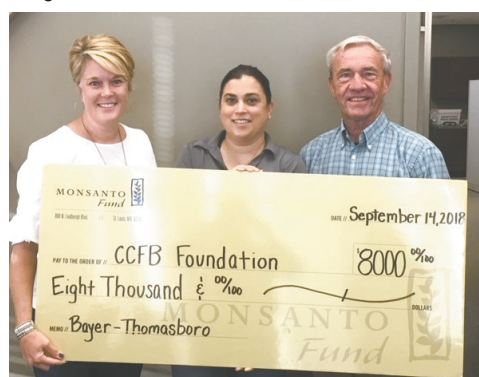
auction. This tremendous opportunity is offered to our Gala attendees by a list of friends of the CCFB Foundation. Our sincere thanks go out to Joe Cannon of AgriGold, Pat Conlin and John Wienke of DeKalb Seeds and

Jack Murray of Murray Seeds.

The 2018 Harvest Gala is the 11th Annual event and will be held on Friday, November 16, 2018 at Pear Tree Estate, Champaign.

### Ag Discovery Fueled by Monsanto Grant

Earth Partners Director Sarah Kaper (left) and Earth Partners Chairman Chris Karr (right) receive a check for \$8,000 from Stacy Acton (center) at a recent meeting of the CCFB Foundation Board of Directors. Acton, an agronomic research specialist with Monsanto's Thomasboro, IL facility presented the check on behalf of the Monsanto Fund.



This grant will be used to fund the Foundation's Ag Discovery program which encourages students to pursue agricultural careers. Through Ag Discovery junior high and high school students from Champaign Unit 4 and Unity High School explore various agricultural careers and hear from industry representatives to determine the career that most aligns with individual student skills and interest. The program is complete with a tour of the many disciplines offered at the University of Illinois College of ACES.

The Ag Discovery Program is a partnership between the CCFB Foundation's Earth Partners program and the University of Illinois Extension's Champaign office. The program is funded, in large part, through the Monsanto Fund.

CCFB Foundation Director

Kirk Bulta says "This grant allows the Foundation to expand its mission of education and encourages student leaders to pursue the wide world of agriculture".

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation provides educational opportunities that impact the future of the food and agricultural industry in Champaign County, and around the world. Since its inception in 1986, the Foundation is proud to have provided over 415 Champaign County students the encouragement, and financial resources to succeed in college. In addition, the Foundation's Earth Partners program takes Agriculture to the Classroom by educating over 9,000 students annually and helps to connect students to the food system while promoting agriculture's importance in our local communities.

## Plant Seeds for Our Future

12 bags each of each seed variety will be featured in our live auction  
**Friday, November 16, 2018**  
AgriGold - Joe Cannon; DeKalb - Pat Conlin & John Wienke; Pioneer - Murray Seed

# SAVE THE DATE

## 11th Annual Harvest Gala

**Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Hosted by PEAR TREE ESTATE**  
**INVITATION TO FOLLOW**





**Nathan Hubbard**  
COUNTRY Financial  
Agency Manager



**Rhonda Wagner**  
Administrative Assistant  
Champaign Agency



**Dan Punkay**  
328-0023



**Travis Heath**  
352-4555



**Keith Garrett**  
485-3010



**Jessie DeHaan**  
352-3466



**Stan Ochs**  
352-3296



**Terry Hill**  
469-9800



**Jim Nelson**  
892-4479



**Aaron Wheeler**  
586-6170



**Scott Jackson**  
359-9335



**Dawn Babb**  
892-4479



**Andrew Deedrich**  
359-3941



**Steve Derry**  
352-2655

## Cultivating the Seeds of Safety Everyday

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – With an estimated 58,000 adult injuries a year, farm work continues to be one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, farming is the 6th most dangerous occupation in America.

Farming accidents aren't only caused by errors in operating farm equipment. "There are several factors that cause accidents on the farm – sleep and nutrition being a large factor," says Eric Vanasdale, Loss Control Supervisor for COUNTRY Financial. "Teaching farmers how to take care of themselves out in the fields is just as important as teaching them how to take care of themselves away from the fields."

Over the next few months, farmers will be working longer hours—starting their days before sunrise without resting until long after sunset. There will be moving tractors, planters and tillage equipment that are often oversized and slow-moving—making it difficult for drivers to know how to behave when sharing the road. To ensure you or your favorite farmer are safe all year long, follow these easy farm safety tips.

### Easy tips for farmers

1. Maintain your equipment. Most farm accidents and deaths involve outdated machinery that lack safety features. Make sure your equipment is maintained according to the manufacturers' recommendations to prevent tractor rollovers and accidents.
2. Make sure you understand how to safely handle the chemicals you use. Keep chemicals in their original, marked containers. Make sure everyone working on your farm is trained in safely handling them and understands emergency procedures.
3. Be Alert on the Road. Most accidents happen at dawn or dusk, as they are peak commuting times for drivers. They occur most often when a driver attempts to pass a slow-moving vehicle, or does not realize a farmer is turning or stopping. Watch out for other vehicles on the road and use flashing lights to draw attention to the tractor's slow speed.
4. Have a plan for grain bin safety when entry is absolutely necessary. Train workers on grain storage hazards and risks involved with entering a grain storage bin. Follow safe bin entry practices like Lock Out Tag Out and utilizing a lifeline system. Have an emergency action plan in case an accident occurs and make sure everyone on your farm is trained to follow it.
5. Tell family and helping hands where you will be working and when. Keep the lines of communication open. Also, always have a cell phone or walkie-talkie on you in case of emergencies or accidents.
6. Get plenty of rest and take frequent breaks. Drink plenty of fluids and have healthy snacks on hand to keep your energy levels up. Do not push yourself past healthy limits. Accidents are more likely to happen once fatigue sets in.
7. Familiarize yourself with how your prescriptions and over the counter medications affect you. Some medications and machinery do not mix. Consult your doctor if your medications impair your ability to safely operate your equipment.



**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





**MARK THORNSBOROUGH,**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

## From The Field

by Dr. Howard Brown

**Fall fertilizer applications for the 2019 crop.** The end of the 2018 harvest season ushers in preparation for the 2019 crop and the decisions that accompany making input investments. Here are some common questions and responses that may be helpful when making an investment into nutrient applications for 2019.

*When should soil samples be collected for analysis?* The time of sampling is not as important as sampling the same location and depth at the same time of year. Variability in post-harvest soil moisture along with continued variability in the outcome of the potassium test no longer favors fall to be the best time for sample collection. Consider collecting soil samples in the Spring (May/June) when fertilizer will be applied following harvest and in the fall (September/October) when fertilizer will be applied pre-plant in the Spring. Allowing a few months to study the test results and formulate a nutrient management strategy that favors farm profitability and environmental stewardship is much more important. Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist for help with developing your nutrient management strategy.

*Why do samples need to be collected at a 7-inch depth?* The only soil testing depth that is correlated and calibrated to crop yield response to phosphorus and potassium fertilizer applications is 6-7 inches. Samples can be collected at other depths, but there is no interpretation available to determine how much phosphorus and potassium is needed to optimize harvest yield. Samples can be collected at a depth of 3 inches to determine soil pH, but it is used to determine the potential for residual herbicide injury (high soil pH).

*When should we start applying fall fertilizer?* Phosphorus and potassium fertilizers can be applied anytime once the crop is harvested. Both nutrients are considered relatively immobile in silt and/or clay soils and move very, very slowly... why they are considered immobile. Once time is allowed for the nutrients to react with the soil, the only way significant losses could occur would be with the loss of soil through soil erosion. Minimizing soil erosion potential by using conservation practices will help optimize soil productivity and minimize any nutrient loss.

*Is there a time NOT to apply fall fertilizer?* Avoid any phosphorus and potassium applications within 12 to 24 hours of a significant rain event (1-inch or more), especially in fields that have some slope. The phosphorus and potassium fertilizers commonly applied are nearly 100% water soluble (90%+ for phosphorus and 100% for potassium). A rain event soon after application may not allow enough time for the nutrients to react with the soil, allowing them to dissolve in rain water and move with surface runoff. Losing nutrients to surface runoff would have negative economic and environmental consequences. Look at the forecast and make an effort to delay fertilizer applications on the front side of any significant rain event. Note: This is the reason for SENATE BILL 1 in the Lake Erie Watershed.

### OHIO

131st General Assembly)

(Substitute Senate Bill Number 1)

Sec. 905.326. *Except as provided in division (B) of this section, no person in the western basin shall surface apply fertilizer in a granular form when the local weather forecast for the application area contains greater than a fifty per cent chance of precipitation exceeding one inch in a twelve-hour period.*

Excerpt from Ohio Senate Bill 1 describing when granular fertilizer cannot be applied to a field. (<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA131-SB-1>)

*Does adoption of strip-till or no-till minimize loss of nutrients by surface runoff?* Surface residue should slow surface water movement, allowing for water infiltration into the soil, reducing loss of soluble nutrients with surface runoff and movement of soil by water erosion. However, the increase in macro-pore development with strip or no-till practices increases water infiltration through larger soil pores which may increase preferential flow of water containing dissolved nutrients into subsurface tile lines. Regardless of tillage practices, it is advised to delay dry fertilizer applications if a significant rain event is anticipated with a day of the scheduled application. A light incorporation of surface-applied fertilizer soon after application will help minimize nutrient loss with surface runoff but it may increase the potential for nutrient loss through soil erosion. To learn more about how larger soil pores may be connected to subsurface drainage tile visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eroGrAjILZk&t=6s> and watch the video.

*What happens to applied phosphorus and potassium fertilizers once applied to the soil?* Granular phosphorus fertilizers are applied in an ortho-phosphate form, a form that plants can utilize. Soon after application (1-2 weeks) some of phosphorus fertilizer reacts with soil iron and aluminum (pH < 7) or calcium and magnesium (pH > 7) to form iron/aluminum phosphates or calcium/magnesium phosphates. All of these compounds are much less water soluble than applied ortho-phosphate fertilizer, precipitating the phosphorus and removing it from soil water (temporarily unavailable for plant uptake). A fraction of the applied phosphorus may react with the soil clay, temporarily fixing it immobile and unavailable for plant uptake. In either case, applied phosphorus is not lost, but rendered unavailable for movement or plant uptake. Eventually, the fixed or precipitated phosphorus will find its way back into soil solution where it can be taken-up by the growing crop. Unfortunately, when it finally makes it back into soil solution remains an unknown.

*What happens to the nitrogen that is applied with diammonium (DAP) and monoammonium (MAP) phosphate fertilizer?* Research at the University of Illinois and Minnesota discovered as much as 60% of the N applied with ammoniated phosphate was lost prior to the end of April the following year. The research did not determine the fate of the lost N, whether denitrification, leaching and/or immobilization.

*Is there a way to account for fall-applied N or to determine whether or not it still remains in the soil the following Spring?* Consider putting N-TRACKER to the test. N-TRACKER quantifies plant-available N at a point in a field. Regardless of the source, the test results reflect all plant-available N detected at a 1 and 2 ft. soil depth. N-TRACKER is a tool that provides a way to watch the behavior of plant-available N in the upper soil profile providing an estimate of how much N is needed when the corn is 4 to 6 inches tall, plenty of time for a post-emerge application. To learn more about N-TRACKER or to sign-up for a site for 2019, visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist or visit our website at [www.n-tracker.com](http://www.n-tracker.com).

*When is it a good time to apply Anhydrous Ammonia?* Fall application of anhydrous ammonia across most of the Illini FS territory should be considered **after November 1 when soil temperature at 4 inches (bare soil) is at or below 50° F mid-morning**. The purpose of waiting until November is to minimize the chance of a soil warm-up, causing an undesirable conversion of ammonium to nitrate-N prior to freezing temperatures. Nitrogen in the nitrate-N form can be easily lost through leaching (water movement) or denitrification (saturated soil) in late winter or early Spring, well ahead of crop utilization. A proven nitrification inhibitor, such as N-Serve, should be used with fall applications to minimize early nitrification. N-Serve stops or slows the activity of soil microorganisms responsible for the conversion of ammonium-N to nitrate-N (nitrosomonas bacteria).

*Should N be applied to corn stubble to expedite stalk breakdown?* Nitrogen applied to corn stubble as ammoniated phosphorus fertilizers (DAP, MAP, MES-10) will likely be immobilized by soil microbial activity (up to 45 pounds N), especially if worked into the soil with tillage and the soils are still warm. However, it is not advised to apply additional N fertilizers for the specific purpose of enhancing soil microbial breakdown of corn stalk residue. The economic and environmental risk associated with N loss is greater than any potential benefit (if any) to enhancing microbial breakdown of corn stubble, especially as the soil cools.

**S.T.A.R. Stewardship Effort.** The Stewardship Committee of the Champaign County Soil & Water Conservation District has developed a FREE tool to assist farm operators and land owners in evaluating their nutrient and soil loss management practices on individual fields. The purpose of S.T.A.R. is to motivate those making cropping decisions to use the “best management practices” that will ultimately meet the goals of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. To learn more about the S.T.A.R. Program visit the Champaign County Conservation District’s website at: <http://www.ccsxcd.com/S.T.A.R./> or ask your local Illini FS Crop Specialist for additional information about the program.



# September 2018 Illinois Farm Bureau Leaders to Washington Trip



Nancy Strunk, Champaign County Farm Bureau member, recently traveled with a group of Illinois Farm Bureau members to Washington, D.C. The trip was the annual Illinois Farm Bureau Marketers to Washington outing. Days were jam-packed with meetings and learning about issues that affect agriculture.

### Nancy’s Wrap Up

On Wednesday, September 5, thirteen farmers from across Illinois met with Adam Nielson, Ryan Whitehouse, and Deana Stroisch, Illinois Farm Bureau staff at the AFBF building. We were briefed on Immigration, WOTUS, Farm Bill, Renewable Fuels and Trade. IFB President Rich Guebert joined us after his meeting with VP Pence and others on trade discussion that day.

Soon we were off to the Chinese Embassy where we met Xi Zhenglin, Ag Attaché, People’s Republic of China. We discussed trade issues, technology, U.S. investment in China, and Chinese investment in the U.S. agricultural sector. We expressed the need to keep markets open between China and the US.

On Thursday we met with top EPA political and career officials along with members of Nebraska Farm Bureau where the discussion included Renewable Fuels, Small Refinery Waivers, the need for Year-Round E-15 and Dicamba Registration Review.

Next up was a visit to the Hill. We had an opportunity to meet with Representatives and Senators from our districts. Adam Brown and I met with Jimmy Ballard, Senior Legislative Assistant to Rodney Davis. We discussed the importance of getting the farm bill passed, to provide a consistent path for the next few years not only to us as farmers, but to the banks and lenders who work with us.

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

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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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We went over the topics of WOTUS, RFS, and especially the need for free trade with Jimmy Ballard and again with Rep. John Shimkus. I thanked Rep. Shimkus for coming to Champaign County the preceding Friday to meet with our local farmers. He expressed his desire to get to know more about our concerns and felt that the farm bill would be passed.

The following meeting was with the House Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on Trade, staff members Dawn Brow and Josh Snead. Again, we discussed the need for passing the farm bill, free trade, renewable fuels, WOTUS, and affordable health insurance.

In these meetings the persons we visited with were listening to our concerns, wanting to know details, and asked good questions. It becomes evident why these trips are necessary when you participate. We would rather have free trade than the USDA Trade Mitigation Program which is scheduled to pay \$0.01/bu. of corn.

Our group of thirteen people included four women and nine men. Seven members of the group were under 35 years of age (Young Farm Leaders). One, of the two, fourth generation farmers is a single mom, working with her family operating the equipment along with keeping the books. This group grows corn, soybeans, alfalfa, lettuce, meat goats, horses, and tilapia. What was a common thread among all of us? Definite concerns about getting the Farm Bill passed, free trade, renewable fuels, Dicamba, and health insurance.

A quick example of how important it is to tell our story. We were asked if we didn’t like the current prices for our commodities why we don’t wait to sell next year. The education began with discussing we don’t have enough storage in the US for the crop, if we store it we are paying fees for that since we don’t have storage on the farm, we have bills to pay, we have families to feed and we have bankers who are concerned.

We were instructed to wear comfortable shoes and be ready to walk. This trip



### Behind The Scenes continued from Page 1

Christi Delaney, Christine Uken, Dale Franzen, Gerald Henry, Glenda Waller, Jenna Sudeth, Joe Burke, Kristi Pflugmacher, Lin Warfel, Lynn Doran, Mike Briggs, Paul Hunsinger, Steve Hammel, Tom Parkhill, Don Birkey, Lois Wood, and Paula Zwilling.

Total quota is a combination of our voting members and our associate members. Associate members are those members that are part of the organization but are not involved in agriculture in any fashion. This year we finished with 10,697 total members, up 23 from last year. The break down is 8,191 associate members (not involved in agriculture) and 2,506 voting members (involved in agriculture). Our total membership, 10,697, ranks us as the 9th overall largest county in the state.

Thanks again for being a member, each and every one of you that pays your membership dues are part of the year long process to meet our membership goals. Thank You to COUNTRY Financial for all the help you provide us and Thank You to all the volunteers who signed a member this past year. Our trend line continues upward on voting members and we had an outstanding total membership year as well.

exposes one to another way of life. Scurrying to the metro, joining the throngs of people filling up train cars, noticing their habits of earbuds, cell phones or reading papers/kindles makes me appreciate Illinois agriculture even more. DC is making decisions that

directly affect us and it is necessary to carry the message of our farmers to them. Adam, Ryan, and Deana, IFB staff does a terrific job of making this a memorable and successful trip to tell our story.

### PS Form 3526 Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title CHAMP. CO. FARM BUREAU /CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS	2. Publication Number 99840	ISSN 10782966	3. Filing Date 09/17/2018
4. Issue Frequency MONTHLY ONLY	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 12	6. Annual Subscription Price \$ 3.00	
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication 801 N COUNTRY FAIR DR STE A CHAMPAIGN, CHAMPAIGN, IL 61821-2492			Contact Person PERIODICALS MAILER Telephone (217) 352-5235
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher 801 N COUNTRY FAIR DR STE A CHAMPAIGN, IL 61821-2492			
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor			
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) Champaign County Farm Bureau 801 N Country Fair Dr Ste A Champaign, IL 61821-2492			
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Lesley Gooding 801 N COUNTRY FAIR DR STE A CHAMPAIGN, IL 61821-2492			
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Bradley Uken 801 N COUNTRY FAIR DR STE A CHAMPAIGN, IL 61821-2492			
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)			
Full Name	Complete Mailing Address		
Champaign County Farm Bureau	801 N Country Fair Dr Ste A, Champaign, IL 61821-2492		
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
Full Name	Complete Mailing Address		
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)			

PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 1) PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

13. Publication Title CHAMP. CO. FARM BUREAU /CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 09/01/2018	
15. Extend and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Numbers of Copies (Net press run)		2472	2452
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	372	366
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	2015	2011
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	0	0
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), (4))		2387	2377
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	54	54
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	0	0
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), (4))		54	54
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		2441	2431
g. Copies not Distributed		88	75
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)		2529	2506
i. Percent Paid ((15c / 15f) times 100)		97.79 %	97.78 %
16. If total circulation includes electronic copies, report that circulation on lines below.			
a. Paid Electronic Copies		0	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15C) + Paid Electronic Copies		0	0
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15F) + Paid Electronic Copies		0	0
d. Percent Paid (Both Print and Electronic Copies)		0.00 %	0.00 %

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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

☒ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/01/2018 issue of this publication.☐ Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Bradley Uken	Title Managing Editor	Date 09/17/2018 11:49:19 AM
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*The CCFB Women's Committee had a wonderful day at Curtis Orchard educating the public about where their food comes from!*



*The CCFB marketing club had a great Fall Outlook Panel this month! Thanks to Gale Cunningham for moderating the panel.*



*Members of the CCFB visited our adopted legislator Rep. Greg Harris to better understand the issues facing his diverse district.*



*The CCFB hosted 3 harvest safety meetings over one week. Safety is everyone's business.*



*The CCFB was proud to welcome Congressmen Davis and Shimkus for an afternoon on the farm to discuss Ag issues with our members!*