



# Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 96, No. 12

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

December, 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: Duane Northrup



Duane Northrup and family

### Meet Duane Northrup, Champaign County Coroner

I currently live in Mahomet, Illinois with my wife, Christine, who is an administrator with the Mahomet-Seymour School District and my youngest daughter, Kailyn, who is completing her senior year of high school. My oldest daughter, Madison, is a senior at Missouri State University completing her Bachelor’s in Nursing and my middle daughter, Peyton, is a sophomore at Missouri State University pursuing a pre-physical therapy/psychology major.

My father was a forestry worker and construction worker from

Maine and my mother grew up on my grandparent’s farm west of Rantoul where she assisted with farm work and eventually met my father while he was stationed at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul and she worked there in civil service. I was born in Augusta, Maine in 1970 and have lived in Champaign County since I was four years of age. I graduated from Rantoul Township High School in 1988 and Parkland College in 1994 with an Associate’s Degree in Criminal Justice. Post high school I worked for a few years in Ag Construction for Huls, Inc. in Gifford, Illinois then farmed for Joe Murray Farms in Rantoul for approximately 10 years and farmed my grandparents land for several years during that time. I worked in rental property maintenance and ran my own general contracting company near the end of my farming career and built my first home in rural Urbana, Illinois in 2001 and my second home, where I currently live, in Mahomet, Illinois in 2008. I left the construction and farming industries in the spring of 2001 to accept a position as a full-time Deputy Coroner under former coroner Roger Swaney. I decided to run for coroner in 2004 with support from retiring coroner Roger Swaney. I won my first primary and general elections and took office as Champaign County Coroner on December 1, 2004. The rest is history as they say. I was re-elected coroner in 2008, 2012 and 2016 and consider it an honor and

a privilege to have served the citizens of Champaign County as their coroner for the last 14 years and hope to continue as long as they will have me.

I am currently the Chair of the Coroner Training Board which is a five member board appointed by the governor to oversee approval of all continuing education and training for Illinois coroners and deputy coroners. I serve on the local Child Death Review Multidisciplinary Team as a member, and former Chair and Vice Chair for many years. I currently serve on the Illinois Coroners & Medical Examiners Association (ICMEA) Legislative Committee and served as president of that association in 2009. I currently serve on the local Elder Fatality Review Team (FRT) that reviews deaths of adult individuals outside of IDPH licensed skilled care facilities. I serve as an appointed member of the state FRTs Advisory Council. I am a former Executive Board member and President of the Illinois Association of County Officials (IACO). I currently serve as a voting member of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF).

The three primary responsibilities of the coroner are to determine positive identification, determine cause and manner of death, and notification of next of kin for decedents coming under the jurisdiction of the coroner.

The Champaign County Coroner’s Office is located in Urbana,

Illinois and performs death investigations 24 hours per day / 7 days per week to determine cause and manner of death for deaths falling under the jurisdiction of the coroner. Deaths resulting from trauma or suspected trauma, all sudden/unexpected deaths, deaths in which the decedent is not attended by a licensed physician, and deaths where the cause of death is not known must be reported to the coroner, according to state law. The coroner’s office investigates deaths occurring from homicidal means however, a majority of the deaths investigated by the coroner’s office are natural, accidental, or suicidal in nature. All deaths in which the decedent will be cremated must be reported to the coroner to obtain a cremation permit once the coroner has determined if further investigation is needed. I have a staff of 4 full-time Deputy Coroner Investigators, a full-time Senior Medical Secretary, 3 part-time Deputy Coroner Autopsy Technicians and 1 part-time Medical Secretary and 1 independent (non-county employee) forensic pathologist in our department. We operate a full-service regional morgue facility that receives approximately 1900+ calls annually. We perform approximately 150-170 Champaign County autopsies and approximately 100 autopsies for neighboring county coroner’s annually with a total fiscal year 2018 operational

Duane Northrup continued page 2

### Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 107th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau is called for Monday, January 28th, 2019 at the Pear Tree Estate 2150 CR 1000 E, Champaign, Illinois.

Registration begins at 5 p.m.  
Marketing Club begins at 5 p.m.  
Dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

The business meeting will begin at 7 p.m. for the purpose of consideration of any business which may be properly presented.

Directors from the following townships will be elected:

- Compromise
- Ludlow

- Newcomb
- Philo
- Raymond
- Sadorus
- St. Joseph
- Scott
- Somer

To make reservations, see the official registration form in this newsletter.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 4th, 2019

Minutes of the 2018 CCFB Annual Meeting are also printed in this edition of the CCFB Newsletter.



# December Report

President, Mike Briggs



As you read this we are in the middle of a busy time for the farm bureau and most of you. At the Farm Bureau we just wrapped up another successful Illinois Farm Bureau annual meeting in Chicago. We had a good turnout from Champaign County and as always it is nice to see how things are working across the state. Also, the foundation put on another successful Harvest Gala at the end of November. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped. We greatly appreciate your support of Ag education in Champaign County.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and was able to spend time with the people that matter most. At our house it seemed like Thanksgiving got here awful quick this year. Now the kids are ramping up for Christmas. I wish everyone safe travels and a wonderful Christmas season.

Sincerely,  
Mike Briggs

Join the Prime Timers!  
December 13 starting at 10 a.m.

Speaker: Ginger McKee,  
Cunningham Children’s Home  
Entertainment: Karen Shipley



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!

January 10  
February 14

## CCFB Prime Timer’s Collecting Cookies for Cunningham Children’s Home

The CCFB Prime Timer’s Committee will be collecting cookies for Cunningham Children’s Home during their December meeting. Please consider bringing 2 dozen cookies with you to the meeting! Cunningham

does ask that the cookies contain no peanuts, peanut butter, coconut oil, peanut oil, no nuts or tree nuts, and no coconut to avoid any food allergy issues.

Duane Northrup continued from Page 1

budget of \$571,106.

The biggest challenge facing the coroner’s office is maintaining minimum staffing to handle the amount of cases each year. Running an operation that functions 24/7 with only 4 full-time investigators is an ever increasing challenge that places undue strain on staff. This coupled with high expectations and low wages is a recipe for quick burnout and high turnover. Another huge challenge we face every day is how to address an increasing unclaimed and/or indigent decedent population.

On a personal note  
For fun...

I was a three sport athlete in high school playing football, basketball and baseball however, I am not a huge fan of professional sports currently. I enjoyed coaching my three daughters in softball when they were younger and I enjoy attending U of I volleyball, basketball and softball games with my wife and daughters but, most enjoy watching Kailyn Northrup play Mahomet-Seymour

girls basketball right now.

Favorite Dessert?

I love Christine’s chocolate dessert and have never met a piece of pecan pie I didn’t like.

Do you have anything on your bucket list or have you checked anything off the list?

Building my own house was always a dream of mine and top of my bucket list and I was fortunate enough to build two in my lifetime. I have whitewater rafted in Maine and South Carolina and bungee jumped from a crane over bare ground. I do not have many things on my bucket list. I am a vanilla kind of guy who has been blessed with a job I truly love.

Do you have a connection to agriculture or any favorite memories of agriculture?

My favorite memories of agriculture revolve around my years farming with Joe Murray in rural Rantoul. I enjoyed operating the farm equipment in the fields and hauling grain to the elevator. We worked hard and laughed a lot too. He was like a brother to me. I cherish all the memories and friendships I gained during those years.

## Marketing Club

Join us for a Market Outlook meeting prior to the CCFB Annual Meeting!

Speakers:  
Dean Killian, Premier  
Cooperative &  
Robert Carlson, CEO  
of Premier Cooperative

January 28 @ Pear  
Tree Estates at  
5:15 PM

Register for Annual Meeting using the form in this newsletter!

## CCFB Calendar of Events December 2018

December 10	Women’s Committee	9:30 a.m.
December 11	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 a.m.
December 13	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
December 18	Legislative Committee	7:30 a.m.
December 20	Full Board	6:30 p.m.
December 24-26	Office Closed – Holiday	
December 31	Office Closed – Holiday	

## January 2019

January 1	Office Closed - Holiday	
January 4-5	Illini Farm Toy Show @ Garden Hotel	
January 8	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 a.m.
January 13	Euchre	2 – 4 p.m.
January 14	Women’s Committee	9:30 a.m.
January 15	Legislative Committee	7:30 a.m.
January 17	Full Board	6:30 p.m.
January 27	Euchre	2 – 4 p.m.

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

All CCFB Members welcome! Games start at 2pm and last until 4pm in the CCFB Auditorium

January 13 & 27  
February 10 & 24  
March 10



# FFA Highlight – State FFA President Sophia Hortin

It’s hard to believe that I am nearing the halfway point of my year serving as the Illinois State FFA President. From the moment I was elected it has been an absolutely unbelievable, remarkable, mesmerizing experience. It seems that each week (or each day sometimes) I am in a different place and doing something different all in the name of the industry, organization, and values that I am most passionate about. I have yet to find a way that accurately describes this experience and how meaningful it is to me, but in attempt I’d say it’s a second-to-none opportunity to serve the mission of Illinois FFA and that I am savoring every moment of it.

My journey started immediately upon the close of the 90th Illinois State FFA Convention. Straight away, our team dove into a number of conferences, trainings, introductions, and team meetings to become best prepared for your year of service to the over 18,400 members of Illinois FFA.

Shortly thereafter, the five major state officers (my four teammates and I) and all 25 of our Section FFA Presidents hit the road to Washington D.C. with the Illinois Corn Growers for the National Corn Congress. Thanks to the support of the Illinois Corn Growers our team had the incredible opportunity to work

alongside them advocating for current agriculture issues (such as trade and ethanol) to Illinois Congressmen and women. This remarkable experience didn’t stop there. Additionally our team heard from, learned from, and had question/answer sessions with Andrew Wheeler, Director of the EPA; Steve Censky, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture; and Sonny Perdue, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Once we returned from this once-in-a-lifetime experience, I immediately went back to Washington D.C. two days later with my four teammates for the State Officer Summit where we met with State and National FFA Officers from all 50 states and with representatives from the Puerto Rico FFA Association.

The summer wrapped up with Illinois FFA Leadership Camp at Allerton Park in Monticello and the Illinois FFA Barnyard at the Illinois State Fair where we hosted over 10,000 visitors.

Most recently, my teammates and I have been out on chapter visits which is where we visit agriculture classes in every section of Illinois. Our focus message this year is on goal setting. To date, the Illinois State FFA Officer Team has reached over 4,384 students and traveled over 12,500 miles on chapter visits alone.



Sophia Hortin

This is just a tiny taste of what my teammates and I do as State FFA Officers to further the mission of agriculture education. Throughout all the hustle and bustle there are little moments that remind me of why I do what I do, and why I love it so much. Occasionally I am asked the question “Is it everything you expected it to

be?”, and I simply reply by saying “It is that and so much more than what could be described in words.” There is no better feeling than the humble pride that is felt from service to the mission of agriculture education, the idea of building a better future, and above all service to the members that make Illinois FFA outstanding.

## CCFB - Behind the Scenes

By: Brad Uken

Often times I get questions from members and feel that those questions would be or could be relevant to the wider membership audience. So with the help of the Illinois Farm Bureau, here’s a couple questions and brief answers from the past couple of months.

**Question: At a public railroad crossing what are the line of**

**sight requirements as it pertains to noxious weeds and brush?** So step one is a public railroad crossing is one that by its name is for the public to use, such as school buses, farm equipment, and general vehicles. A private crossing might be one that you cross with farm equipment only to get into your field or to get to another section of farmland that is separated by the

crossing. In terms of this answer, I’m addressing public crossings only. The requirements are that you have a clear line of sight for 500 ft. in both directions on both sides of all public crossings. This means you should be able to have a clear line of vision of 500 ft., clear of tree’s tree branches, weeds – including noxious weeds. The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) regulates this and is responsible for holding railroad companies responsible for safeguarding these lines of sight. It is a fact that rail companies employ maintenance crews to ensure these sight lines are present. If you have concerns about the 500 ft. line of sight at a particular crossing you should call the ICC from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday at 1-800-524-0795, and report the crossing.

**Question: Periodically, a landowner will have an unburied cable running through their road ditch.** Why isn’t it buried and who is responsible for it if it gets cut? And who can you call about it? First of all, the question is do you know if it is an electric line or a communications cable. If it is an electric cable (or if you do not know for sure) do not approach the cable and call the power company immediately. If you are certain that it is not an electric line, the first step is to determine who’s cable it is? If you know the owner, then contact them as often as it takes to get the line buried. The more complicated and time consuming step is if you don’t know who’s line it is. Here are some suggestions: 1. Talk with adjacent

landowners, perhaps they know. 2. Reach out to the local road district authority. 3. Contact the power company since they may have allowed the said cable company to place that on their pole and thus they may know. 4. Call the ICC from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday at 1-800-524-0795 to file an informal complaint. An informal complaint can also be filed online. If a cable line has been exposed due to a washout in the ditch, that responsibility to actually rebury that falls to the local road district authority. Finally, if you damage a cable line that was not buried properly, you are not liable for the damage you did to the line that is negligence on behalf of the company that owns it. In fact, in many cases, if the line does damage to your equipment when you hit it, the cable owner will compensate you for the damage to your equipment. In any case, never intentionally damage the equipment.

**Question: What can a landowner do about trash, yard debris or furniture discarded into a road ditch or field?** Overall, the responsibility of garbage, yard debris or furniture discarded in a road ditch is the responsibility of the township road commissioner or county highway engineer, depending on who has authority of that particular road. However, as we all know resources are often stretched thin with these two entities making it difficult for them to address this problem. Thus, landowners often times may step in to clean up the



## FARM TOY SHOW AND AUCTION

**Friday, Jan. 4th, 2019 4 PM – 8 PM\***

*\*Room vendors may be open later at vendor discretion.*

**Saturday, Jan. 5th, 2019**  
**9 AM – 3 PM, Auction 10:30 AM**  
**Adults: \$3, Kids 6-12: \$2, Under 6: Free**

**Garden Hotel, 1001 W. Killarney St. Urbana, IL 61801**  
**I-74 to Exit 183, South on Lincoln Ave, Hotel on the West**

**For additional information contact Lynn**  
**at (970) 420-4765 or [lynnann85@gmail.com](mailto:lynnann85@gmail.com)**

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**KIRK BULTA**  
Executive Director



**SARAH KAPER**  
Earth Partners Director

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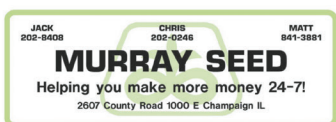
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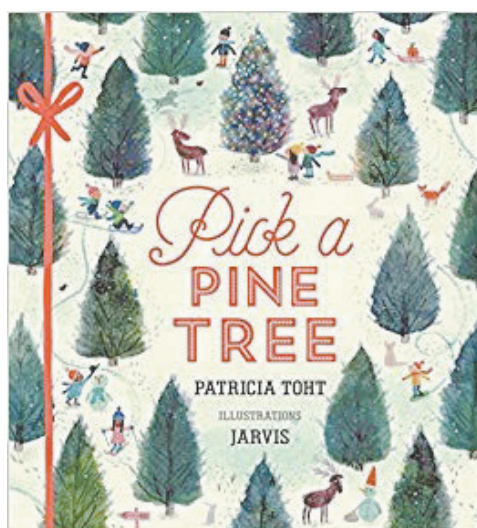
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# Thank you for your support this year!

## Christmas Activities from Earth Partners

O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum!  
During the month of December we are focusing our lessons on one of our very important resources, trees--specifically, coniferous trees. While adding to our Ag Literacy library, I came upon a book titled, *Pick a Pine Tree* by Patricia Toht. This text celebrates the life cycle of the pine tree, and the transformation of a pine tree on a tree farm to a Christmas tree in someone's home. The lessons also involve a quick and easy way to identify different conifers. It is a great activity for your family when you choose your tree this year.

- Pine needles come in packets and have sharp points.  
Prickly, Pine, Packets
- Fir needles are flat with a rounded end.  
Flat, Friendly, Firs



- Spruce needles are square and have scaly bark.  
Single, Square, Scaly Spruce

Bright red cranberries show up on the Christmas table or in decorations this time of year. The best cranberries bounce. That is why today, cranberry farmers often use a machine that simulates bouncing cranberries to sort them by freshness. Can you figure out which of your cranberries are the best?

**Materials: 10 cranberries**

**Directions:**

1. On a sheet of paper, draw ten boxes. Set one cranberry in each box and label the boxes 1-10.
2. Make initial observations about each cranberry and write them down (firmness, color, smell...etc.).
3. Make a hypothesis, which cranberries do you think will bounce?
4. Individually drop the cranberries from the same height.
5. Record your observations for each cranberry's bounce, or lack of bounce.
6. Compare your initial observations and hypothesis to your results.







**Nathan Hubbard**  
COUNTRY Financial  
Agency Manager



**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



*NOW 2018 – Kate & Nick Growing Up! Janet & Bret haven't changed!*



*THEN 2017 – Kroencke Family*

## Catching Up With Bret Kroencke

This month we are catching up with COUNTRY Financial Representative Bret Kroencke. Bret has been serving COUNTRY Financial clients since 1999. He is one of the only COUNTRY Financial Representatives in Champaign County providing health insurance for farmers, the self-employed, and small business owners.

Bret grew up in Liberty, IL, and comes from a COUNTRY Financial family. Bret's father was a financial representative who raised Bret to be hard working and always put family and clients first. Bret says, "My dad taught me the importance of always taking care of business and not to sweat the small stuff."

Giving clients advice is part of Bret's day to day job, "I want to make sure I am there for my clients when things happen. I want to make sure they are in the right place." Getting to the right place includes sitting down with Bret and reviewing policies. According to Bret, "Clients often insure homes and autos, but it is important to protect income by insuring a life. It is so important to also provide life insurance for children and grandchildren!" Other helpful advice includes paying yourself first, "We are so quick to pay a cell phone or cable bill, but we must pay ourselves first. It is important to build your savings and retirement."

Not much has changed for Bret and his family since we last highlighted him in April 2017. Bret and his wife, Janet, spend most of their spare time supporting their kid's school and sport activities. This involves traveling throughout Illinois and other exotic Midwest destinations for games and events. Bret's daughter has moved onto high school and Bret still stays busy coaching his son's basketball and baseball teams. Bret also enjoys cheering on the Chicago Cubs and has since about age 6, a turning point in his life when he also developed a love of baseball cards.

Bret is active in the community serving on the City of Champaign Planning Commission and St Matthew's Education Commission.



**Rhonda Wagner**  
Administrative Assistant  
Champaign Agency



**Bret Kroencke**  
359-9391



**Chuck Rippy**  
586-5030



**Chris Greenwold**  
355-8675



**Dan Duitsman**  
469-2033



**John May**  
352-3341



**Austin Beaty**  
217-352-0012



**Steve Derry**  
352-2655



**Aaron Wheeler**  
586-6170



**Scott Jackson**  
359-9335



**Dawn Babb**  
892-4479



**Andrew Deedrich**  
359-3941





**MARK THORNSBROUGH,**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

## From The Field

by Dr. Howard Brown

### FOCUS ON N MANAGEMENT IN 2019

**N management improves farm profitability.** Nitrogen management can directly or indirectly impact nearly everyone in an area specific to farm fields. Improving plant utilization of the N applied can optimize the 2nd greatest input cost in corn production, reducing cost of production. Plant utilization of applied N minimizes the amount that may escape into our natural resources (air-denitrification, water-leaching). We can use a *Nutrient Utilization Strategy to achieve goals set by the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.*



*Premature plant death and rotted roots contributed to poor plant standability. Nitrogen loss during the growing season was considered the primary cause of early plant death. Delayed harvest date contributed to rotted roots. Plants still erect were refuge plants (different hybrid) or plants with little or no ear.*

**If possible, avoid a one-time N application.** Whether fall-applied as anhydrous ammonia with N-Serve or early spring-applied as UAN with Instinct II nearly all the N applied will be converted to the vulnerable NO<sub>3</sub>-N form by early June. A period of satu-

rated soil mid-to-late June (experienced in 2018) would provide an environment for significant N loss prior to plant utilization (Image 1).

**Plan for multiple N applications.** Marketing grain at different times throughout the year removes a significant amount of risk associated with picking one bad time to sell. Consider approaching N management the same way. Without prior knowledge of when it will rain and how much will be received, making multiple applications of N at different times will help minimize the risk of loss due to saturated soil (fall/early spring) or the risk of minimal uptake due to dry soil (sidedress).

**Try N-TRACKER to learn more about soil N behavior.** Learn more about what happens to applied N from the Spring thaw to tassel emergence. N-TRACKER provides a window into the upper soil profile to track changes in form, amount and position of plant-available N in the upper 2 feet. Six years of experience has provided many improvements to the management tool. A 2019 addition will be tracking boron and sulfur along with plant-available N at each sampling date. Both boron and sulfur are taken-up by the plant in an anionic form, a form vulnerable to movement with soil water, much like NO<sub>3</sub>-N. N-TRACKER 2019 provides an opportunity to learn more about the amount and behavior of these two essential nutrients, along with NO<sub>3</sub> and NH<sub>4</sub>-N. To register a site or learn more about N-TRACKER 2019 visit [www.n-tracker.com](http://www.n-tracker.com) or visit with your local Illini FS crop specialist.



## Welcome to the Illini FS Team – Shelby Simmons

Shelby has joined the Illini FS team as the new Marketing and Communications Coordinator. Shelby has lived in Champaign County her entire life and is passionate about the agriculture industry here.

She was introduced to the ag industry at a young age. Her grandfather farmed for a number of years around Collison and her sister and father both work in agriculture business related fields.

Although she has an involved history in the agriculture industry she wasn't sure this was the route she always wanted to go. It wasn't until 2014 when she was crowned the Miss Fisher Fair Queen and was able to form her own relationship with agriculture that she knew she wanted a future in the industry.

Shelby is a graduate of St. Joseph- Ogden High School where she was an avid volleyball player before moving on to coaching after graduation. She attended the University of Illinois where she obtained her Bachelor's in Agriculture Communications with a concentration in Advertising as well as a minor in Food and Environmental Systems. While in school she remained active in volleyball and spent 4 years coaching club volleyball for Prime Time out of Champaign and returned to St. Joseph- Ogden to spend 2 years as an assistant coach. During college she interned with Helena Chemical as a Wholesale Sales and Marketing intern.

Upon graduating from the U of I she worked as a Marketing Director for a real estate company before making the switch to Illini FS. Shelby says, "Illini FS is my dream job. When I was in college I made a list of all of the things I was looking for in a future job, when the job came up at Illini FS I was ecstatic to find that it checked everything on my list."

Living in Champaign County her entire life Shelby points out, "the agriculture industry here is extremely important to me and I find that Illini FS has the best commitment to aiding all of those farmers that mean so much to our community. I love coming up with new and exciting ways to connect and grow with our customers."

Shelby is most excited about working with local businesses, making more connections in the industry, growing the FS brand, getting involved with many community activities, and bringing her unique energy to Illini FS.



**Shelby Simmons – Illini FS Marketing and Communication Coordinator**

In her free time Shelby enjoys Co- Directing the Champaign County Fair Queen Pageant, boating, going to concerts, attending tractor pulls with her dad, playing volleyball, working out, hanging out with her new nephew, and being a dog mom.

To contact Shelby or other members of the Illini FS team visit [www.illinifs.com](http://www.illinifs.com) or call the Urbana location at 217-384-8300.



**Fair Queens**

## Crop Insurance Update with Ted Olson, Crop Insurance Specialist

Crop Insurance for 2018 was... uneventful. A few hail claims early and a handful late is all we had to show for this year. Yields this year put us above claims on corn and beans. With the price dropping from \$10.16 to \$8.60, we still could not trigger a revenue claim on soybeans, even at 85%!

Looking forward to 2019, don't expect too many changes on federal crop. With the elections and campaigning over, we hope to see some movement on the farm bill. The farm bill does not propose

and changes to crop insurance currently, nor do we expect to see that happen. We also understand that anything is possible and it is set in stone yet. Crop hail will be fairly similar for 2019 also. Some new endorsement could be seen as soon as 2019, but nothing official just yet. Country Financial is always updating our private products to best fit our customers.

With most of us having fall in the books, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season.



# 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

The 106th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau was held on Monday, January 15, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at Pear Tree Estate, 2150 CR 1000 E, Champaign, IL. Ken Roellig gave the invocation.

President Chris Murray welcomed everyone to the 106th Annual Meeting of Champaign County Farm Bureau.

The meeting was called to order by 2nd Vice President Jason Crider. Chris asked that everyone direct their attention to the center of the room as the colors were presented by Fisher FFA members. Young Ag Leader Chairman, Lynn Doran, led the pledge of allegiance. Chris noted this being Martin Luther King Day he would like us to contemplate the freedom and civil liberties that we appreciate and how wonderful it is to live in these United States. Chris asked everyone to stand as we salute our fine country. Chris introduced all legislators and guests that were at the Annual Meeting who serve us in Washington D. C., Springfield, and locally. Chris recognized past presidents of our organization and introduced many other special guests here with us this evening including Champaign County FFA members from Fisher and St. Joseph/Ogden. Chris also welcomed representatives of the University of Illinois Collegiate Young Ag Leaders and noted this is their sixth full year with us this evening.

**Call of the Meeting by Jason Crider**

Jason Crider, 2nd Vice President, gave the call to the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Notice is hereby given that the 106th Annual meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau is called for Monday, January 15th, 2018 at the Pear Tree Estate, 2150 CR 1000

E, Champaign, Illinois. Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of consideration of any business that may be properly discussed.

**Credentials Committee Report by Jason Crider**

The Credentials Committee consisting of Lin Warfel, Luke Zwilling and Jeff Fisher has informed the president that a quorum was present. Therefore, the president declared that the 106th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau was legally convened.

**Secretary’s Report by Jason Crider**

Jason Crider reported that minutes of the 105th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau was published in the December 2017 edition of the Champaign County Farm Bureau News. It is the recommendation of the Board of Directors that we dispense with the reading of the minutes. A Motion was made by Gerald Henry, seconded by Chuck Ehler and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Jason Crider asked if there were any additions or corrections. Hearing none, he moved that the minutes be approved as presented; motion was seconded. The motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report by Lee Waters**

Lee Waters stated that Treasurer’s report for the Champaign County Farm Bureau was available on page 4 and 5 of your program booklet. It was moved that the financial statement be approved as printed. Motion was made by Lee Waters seconded by Jason Crider and the motion carried.

**Membership Report by Kristi Pflugmacher**

Kristi Pflugmacher reported that Champaign County has made quota for membership since 2004 and this year was no exception. We ended the 2017 Membership Year with a total of 2,504 “M” Members and a Total Membership of 10,621. Champaign County Farm Bureau Volunteers and affiliates signed 115 new “M” members and 630 new Associate members. Kristi Pflugmacher signed 9 new “M” members and Joe Burke signed 4. Adam Watson, Brennon Breymeyer, Carl Smith Justin Leerkamp and Trent Wolken all signed 3 “M” member. Paulette Brock and Nancy Strunk both signed 2 “M” members. Kristi thanked Country Financial Representatives for their work in signing a total of 630 new Associate members and 20 “M” members; Travis Heath lead the way this year signing 76 Associate members and 2 “M” members, Terry Hill signed 46 Associates and 4 “M”

members. Kristie thanked all volunteers and affiliates who participated in signing members this year.

**Introduction Current Board Members by Chris Murray**

Chris Murray introduced the current Board members and asked them to stand as their name is called.

**Introduction of Retiring Board Members by Adam Watson**

Adam Watson introduced the retiring Board members and presented them with a gift of appreciation: Frank Hardimon, Darrel Rice, Brian Dewitt, Jason Crider, Ken Roellig and Chris Murray.

**Introduction of Nominating Committee by Adam Watson**

Adam Watson introduced nominating committee which consisted of Jason Crider, Frank Hardimon, Dale Tharp, Darrel Rice, Brian Dewitt, Chris Murray and himself.

**Members Running for an additional term by Adam Watson**

Members running for an additional term: Carl Smith, Ayers Township, Derek Harms, Stanton Township, Dale Tharp, Champaign Township and Kristi Pflugmacher, Condit Township.

**Candidates nominated for the First Time by Adam Watson**

Candidates nominated for the first time: Trent Wolken, Harwood/Kerr Township, Benjamin Rice, Sidney Township, Jim Kleiss, Pesotum Township, Chris Foran, Colfax Township and Paul Hunsinger, Mahomet Township.

President Chris Murray appointed three tellers consisting of Chris Crider, Chris Hausman and Eric Rund. He asked for nominations from the floor and there were none. Motion was made that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot, motion was seconded by Lin Warfel, and motion carried to cast a unanimous ballot.

**IAA Annual Meeting by Chris Murray**

Chris Murray asked for a motion to authorize the Board of Directors to select the delegates for the 2018 IAA Annual meeting and to approve the actions and deeds of the Board of Directors of 2017. The motion was made by Eric Suits, seconded by Lin Warfel, and carried to allow the Board of Directors to select delegates to the 2018 IAA Annual meeting and approve the actions and deeds of the Board of Directors of 2017.

**Urban Ag Leader of the Year by Lynn Doran**

Lynn Doran introduced Gale Cunningham as the 2017 Urban Ag Leader of the Year and presented him with a plaque.

**Deputy of the Year by Adam Watson**

Adam Watson introduced Deputy Cory Christensen as the 2017 Deputy of the Year and presented him with a plaque.

**CCFB Presidents Retiring Address by Chris Murray**

President Chris Murray thanked everyone for attending the 106th CCFB Annual Meeting and thanked staff and all those who helped with making this evening a success. Chris talked about how he became a Farm Bureau member and serving as President of the Champaign County Farm Bureau.

**CCFB Manager Message by Bradley Uken**

Bradley Uken noted the Champaign County Farm Bureau won the Liberty Bell Award on our work with Local Affairs; award was presented at the IFB Annual Meeting in Chicago. Brad thanked members and leaders in Ag. Brad thanked staff and his family for all their help.

**CCFB Volunteer of the Year Award by Bradley Uken**

Bradley Uken presented the first ever Champaign County Farm Bureau “Volunteer of the Year Award” to Ken Roellig for his dedication to the Farm Bureau and for his many years as Prime Timers Chairman. From here on this award will be given every year to a volunteer who goes above and beyond in serving the Champaign County Farm Bureau, also in honoring Ken for his many years of service this award will be named the “Ken Roellig Volunteer of the Year Award.”

**CCFB Foundation/Earth Partners Report given by Kirk Builta & Myla Munro**

Myla presented Renee Weitekamp with the 2017 Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation Earth Partners’ Volunteer of the Year Award. Myla also presented the Fisher FFA Chapter, under the guidance of advisor Jennifer Boberg, with the Educator of the Year Award.

**Adjournment of Meeting by Chris Murray**

President Chris Murray asked for a motion to adjourn the 106th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau. Motion was made by Kyle Krapf, seconded by Chuck Ehler and motion carried to adjourn the meeting. Chris Murray declared the Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Chris Murray introduced the speaker for the evening Gale Cunningham, WYXY Classic 99.1 and Farm Director of the region’s Ag Force.

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Lee Waters, Treasurer.....Treasurer

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

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Manager -- Bradley Uken, FBCM  
Assistant Manager -- Bailey Edenburn  
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Earth Partners Director -- Sarah Kaper  
Foundation Director -- Kirk Builta

Contact us at (217) 352-5235  
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# CCFB Salutes Veteran Members



The CCFB Women’s Committee was blessed to host a program honoring our Veterans. Panelists including: Marvin Lee, Bill McLane, Ken Roellig, Robert Siuts, Gerald Henry, Lin Warfel, Jane Hogan, and David Cluver shared their experiences with other veterans and members. We thank all of our Veteran members for their service!

## Annual Meeting Speaker – Habeeb Habeeb

The CCFB is proud to announce that the guest speaker at the 107th Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting will be Habeeb Habeeb.

Habeeb is the founder of the H-Squared Leadership Institute, an organization focused on helping people take the good in life to a higher level and to inspire them to pursue excellence while making the world a kinder, gentler, and more positive place. He is featured on the radio with his Motivational Minute featuring uplifting messages and with his Devotional Minute featuring scriptural messages.

Habeeb came to Illinois in 1973 from his home country of Lebanon to attend Olivet Nazarene University. After civil war broke out in Lebanon, Habeeb was separated from his family and had to remain in the US. He later finished his education as an adult and earned his Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from Eastern Illinois University. Habeeb was named a Distinguished Alumnus of EIU in 2015.

Habeeb frequently speaks to organizations, businesses, and universities on topics such as overcoming adversity, ethics, and creating a service-based corporate culture, customer service, keeping the faith when things go bad, appreciating the goodness of America and more. He was the commencement speaker for Eastern Illinois University in 2014 and for Lincoln Christian University in 2017. He was a featured speaker for the Ronald Reagan Leadership Program at Eureka College, home of President Ronald Reagan.



*Habeeb Habeeb*

Habeeb has held volunteer leadership roles in various community and industry organizations such as the Illinois Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, The Illinois Chamber Healthcare Council and the Employer’s Council on Flexible Compensation Board of Directors. He served as Conference Chairman for ECFC for multiple years. He previously served as board chairman for Champaign County First and as a member of the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He was the first immigrant elected as Chairman of Champaign County Republican Party and has been active in advocating for flexible benefits legislation on Capitol Hill. Habeeb previously served as Chairman of the Elders for First Christian Church in Champaign. Habeeb currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of Lincoln Christian University in Lincoln, Illinois.

### Behind The Scenes continued from Page 3

material, which is a good partnership between you the landowner and the road district authority. If indeed you do this, reach out to the road district authority and ask if they have a means for disposing of the debris, they may just have one for you. So how do you stop it from happening, this is

easier said than done. The disposing of debris in a road ditch is a finable offense and you can prosecute for all damages caused if you can prove who did it. Unfortunately, often times this requires more proof than just an eyewitness account but some sort of proof it was said person who did this. I hope you find these responses helpful and I want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas!

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 4TH, 2019**

## THE 107TH CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019 - DINNER BEGINS AT 6 PM

**PEAR TREE ESTATE  
2150 CR 1000 E, CHAMPAIGN**

**COST: \$15 PER PERSON**

RETURN YOUR CHECK WITH THIS FORM TO:  
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801 N. COUNTRY FAIR DR.  
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**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

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