



Champaign County Farm Bureau News

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

December, 2014

Meet

David Fulton,

ASSISTANT FARM BUREAU MANAGER

I grew up on a small hobby farm outside of Lincoln, Illinois in a family of five. Every day was treated as an opportunity to become involved in an agricultural lifestyle. Through my childhood and adolescence I was highly active in 4-H and FFA; from an Extension family I caught on quickly. I managed record books in both organizations on sheep production, rabbits (specialty animal production), and a book on our family CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) acreage. After graduating from Lincoln Community High School I attended the Parkland Pathways program where I was set on track to graduate from the University of Illinois with a degree in Agricultural Leadership Education.

During my collegiate career I was involved in organizations such as CFFA, Nabor House Fraternity, U of I Rodeo Club, and became the founder/president of the Illinois Folk and Roots Club (affiliated with the annual CU Folk and Roots Festival). I held numerous roles throughout these organizations that helped me become a better leader and work in team settings. Apart from involvement in student organizations I was able to experience great internship opportunities. I worked on the U of I South Farms (soil fertility group), as a press writer at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), 4-H Memorial



Camp, Small Farms & Local Food Intern for Champaign, Vermillion, Iroquois and Ford County Extension and a seed division intern for United Prairie LLC. After graduating from the University of Illinois I began working with United Prairie and later became a seed sales assistant.

In my free time I enjoy a number of different hobbies and hold different interests. I enjoy fishing, hunting, the outdoors, performing live music (bluegrass, country and singer-songwriter), spending time with friends and family, working with livestock and helping on various farm projects. My interests include volunteer work within the community (4-H Shooting Sports, local fire department and CU Folk and Roots), live sound productions, rural farm safety and advancing technology in agriculture.

With my passion in agriculture and the past experiences and opportunities that I have been given, I am thankful and excited to be a part of the Champaign County Farm Bureau as their assistant manager. The future looks bright for our organization and it would not advance without advocates of agriculture such as Champaign County Farm Bureau Members, who I look forward to meeting and working with.

Thank you and have a Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,
Dave

2015 Crop Insurance Changes

by Lesley Gooding

Farmers are focusing on fall tillage, but in the next couple of weeks Matt Hoose, Illini FS Certified Crop Insurance Specialist, expects to meet with his clients and process a few crop insurance claims. According to Matt, “There are not a lot of crop insurance claims in this area, but what we are seeing are revenue based claims and not yield based claims. The clients I have currently met with haven’t had any claims, but a few claims have been turned into other agents in the area.” The 2014 claim deadline of December 19 is fast approaching.

As we ring in anew year, new crop insurance rules and rates will take effect. Now is the time to educate yourself and begin planning for 2015 coverage. Changes to policies include lower revenue guarantees because of lower prices and new coverage products. Farmers purchasing crop insurance will have to make some important choices regarding their coverage.

“The new farm bill contains somewhat complicated options for farmers and landowners to consider,” said Doug Yoder, senior director of affiliate and risk management for the Illinois Farm Bureau. “These are very important decisions as they can significantly vary their safety net coverage and protection over the five-year life of the farm bill,

and they cannot be changed once they’ve been selected and the enrollment window closes at Farm Service Agency (FSA).”

Signed into law in February, the Agricultural Act of 2014 eliminates direct payments and modifies the target price program, replacing the Counter-Cyclical Payment (CCP) program with PLC. The bill also changes the revenue safety nets, replacing Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) with two ARC options – County ARC and Individual Farm ARC.



Yoder said participants will receive full descriptions and examples of the choices they must make, including:

- Payment yield updated
- Base acreage reallocation
- Price Loss Coverage
- Ag Risk Coverage (ARC)
 - ARC-CO (county coverage)
 - ARC-IC (individual coverage)
- Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO)
- Payment limits
- Eligibility rules
- Deadlines
- Other changes to crop insurance

The Champaign County Farm Bureau, COUNTRY Financial, Illini FS, and the Illinois Farm Bureau are working together to provide you with the information you need to make informed decisions. Be sure to attend the Crop/Farm Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2015. If you would like to discuss your coverage options contact Matt Hoose at mhoose@illinifs.com or call 217-621-6983.

FARM/CROP MEETING JOIN US FOR A FREE BREAKFAST MEETING...

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Champaign County
Farm Bureau Auditorium

801 N. Country Fair Dr., Champaign, IL

7:30 A.M. Registration/Breakfast

11:00 A.M. Adjourn

Markets: Where to go from here?

Presented by Cory Winstead - Manager with AgriVisor, LLC

Farm Bill 2014: What You Need To Know

Presented by Doug Yoder - Senior Director of Affiliate and Risk Management, with Illinois Farm Bureau

The meeting is FREE. ADVANCE Registration is requested.

Please call: Your COUNTRY Financial® representative or Champaign County Farm Bureau at 217-352-5235 to reserve your spot.

This is a no-cost, no-obligation educational seminar and insurance sales presentation COUNTRY Financial® and its representatives do not recommend or endorse third party speakers. Policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL., an equal opportunity provider.





Seasons Writ Large

by: Lin Warfel, President
Champaign County Farm Bureau

Walking across the home field after dark, to retrieve a truck for the night, my way was lit by stars. Awesome sky! I was stopped in my tracks, caught by the magnitude of the sight. It occurred to me my dad, grandpa, and great grandpa had likely done something similar, in the same field, under the same stars. Since my great grandparents lived their first winter here in a lean to, they both likely were out under those same stars. Those of us in farming get a large dose of nature, in all the seasons. We're part of them, and they us.

The holidays mark those seasons. Thanksgiving comes, appropriately marking the end of one season, with grains and hay stored against the cold winds and snows of winter. Indeed we are greatly thankful to have plenty of food, in such abundance we can ship food around the world...and do! Rivers of grain flow from our fields to railroads, barges, and ocean going ships. I've shipped white food grade corn to South Africa, and tofu soybeans in steel containers to Japan.

And then Christmas. Our faith and a spiritual stamp of hope, found in a manger in Bethlehem, a baby, but a very special one, a gift from the Creator and sustainer of all. A baby who grew up to speak wisdom in so many ways, more has been written about Him than about any other person who has walked on earth.

Then there's Easter. A genuine 'Hosanna!' time, when winter's hold is broken, and death's hold is broken, and the path to communion was made. Planting time. Seeds into warm moist earth, then brave little plants poking up, drawing lines in field after field. Leap-frogging over the next holiday, we come to the 4th of July.

Lush fields of corn and soybeans growing, summer breezes crossing the fields creating waves in the fields like ocean waves. Then there's harvesting wheat and oats. Celebrating our government, remembering those who served. The best parades of the year followed by fireworks lighting up the sky.

All those holidays have a part in

the one I skipped, Memorial Day. The big day for visiting graves and remembering to honor those who have passed, those who have served to protect us. It's a day for Seasons writ large.

In another way of marking time, there's our season of being out of school, married, and having babies. Glorious time! The impossible incredible event of birth of another human being who has our genes is really something. What a happy season! Not just for parents, but also grandparents and great grandparents! As the babies are born, the great grandparents are passing, as each generation has its season. It seems all our seasons are linked to our children, and their life stages. On the heels of Thanksgiving, Christmas has special meaning, planting a huge comma on life.

The stars and the generations all seem to pause, the stars line up, and a very special child is born. We set our calendar by Him, 2014, Anno Domini.(The Year of Our Lord)

'And the government shall be upon His shoulders'.... It says in the King James Version. Good to think about that! He had to remind Pilate that: "You have no power, except that given from above!" I believe our government was built on that, and that's why we're still here as a nation. Reading the words cut in the stones in our nation's capitol, sitting in the churches where our founders sat, where Robert E. Lee and Abe Lincoln sat, walking across the fields where our great grandparents walked, we can sense how small we are, how short our journey on life's highway. At the same time we can see that the seasons are built on purpose, and sacrifice.

For those of us in the heartland, engaged in all the seasons of farming and family, it's a good time to capture the words of an American poet, who told us to "Put your hands on the plow! Hold on!" Refreshed, our hands, generations of working hands, need to hold on to the values passed down to us, sent to us in the Christ child.

Wishing you the best Christmas season ever!

Young Ag Leaders Elect New Officers

The CCFB Young Ag Leaders recently elected new officers. Luke Zwilling was elected Chair of the Committee, while Reid Thompson will serve as the Vice-Chair. Additional officers elected were Daniel Herriott who will be the Treasurer for the committee and Constance Herriott will be the Secretary. These new officers will take the helms of the committee in late January. A HUGE, HUGE THANK YOU to those officers and leaders on the committee who had another very successful year!

Champaign County Farm Bureau Prime Timers hosted Olympic Speed Skater, Erik Henriksen, at the November meeting.

Erik has an impressive speed skating resume:

- 1980, 1984 and 1988 Olympic Teams — Team Captain 1988
- 5 Time National Champion
- Bronze Medal 1985 World Sprint Championships 500m and 1000m
- 9 World Cup Medals
- World Cup Finale Bronze medal 500m
- National Speedskating Hall of Fame 1999



Erik Henriksen Then and Now



ILLINI FARM TOY SHOW

Sponsored by the Illinois Farm Bureau District 12 Young Leaders
Champaign, Vermilion, Douglas & Edgar Counties

Friday and Saturday January 9th & 10th 2015

Urbana Plaza/Holiday Inn Hotel
1001 Kilarney Street, Urbana IL 61801
I-74 to Exit 183 at Lincoln Ave

Friday 5:00 pm: Open room trading - Banquet Room closes at 9:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am : Open room trading - Banquet Room closes at 5:00 pm
Farm Toy Consignment "LIVE" Auction at 10:30 am

Admission: Adults \$3.00 Children (6-12) \$2.00 Under 6 Free

For more Illini Toy Show Information please contact
Sarah Hastings (217) 841-2190 sarah@hastingscci.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 1 District 12 Resolutions Meeting, Vermilion CFB, Danville, 6 p.m.
- 1 Marketing Club, 7 p.m.
- 2 Young Ag Leaders @ Biaggi's, 6:30 p.m.
- 6-9 Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 11 Prime Timers, 10 a.m.

- 12 Equine Meeting at Nancy Strunk's home @ 12:30PM
- 15 Women's Committee Christmas Brunch @ Pat Smith's House, 10:30 a.m.
- 16 Fruit Delivered, TBA
- 16 Legislative Committee, 7:30 a.m.
- 16 Land Use, 6:30 p.m.
- 18 CCFB Board of Directors, 6:30 p.m.
- 24-26 CCFB Office Closed

JANUARY

- 1-2 CCFB Office Closed
- 5 Marketing Club, 7 p.m.

- 8 Young Ag Leaders @ Urbana Plaza, 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Prime Timers, 10 a.m.
- 12 Women's Committee, 9 a.m.

Adam Watson Visits EPA

by Adam Watson, CCFB Board of Directors, Crittenden Township



On Sept. 9th I went out to DC for a meeting with the Assistant Administrator of the EPA. The meeting purpose was to ask

the EPA to slow down with their decision making about label language of neonicatoids. Jean Payne from Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association in Bloomington asked me to go and be a voice of the farmer. There were nearly 15 groups/industries that all came together at Crop Life America (CLA). CLA is a member based organization that is the voice for agriculture groups that all have common interest. Some of the crops/industries represented were almonds, cotton, citrus, horticulture, aerial applicators, chemical companies, AFB, NCGA, and a voice of a producer/farmer.

We all met about 2 hours before the meeting to get organized and briefed on what and who was going to talk to the assistant director. They went through a little of what has been discussed in the past with him. I, by far, was the least informed of the entire group...and yet they wanted me to be one that gave a statement.

Pollinator labeling and bee health is the reason for this meeting. Bees are a MAJOR part of the agriculture industry and even though corn and beans don't directly need them to pollinate our crop, citrus and almonds

rely on them. Bee hives travel across country seasonally to pollinate crops and then move back to areas that have food and habitat for the bees to survive. Bees are also in towns, road ditches, parks and fields. Some of the language that may possibly change in chemical labeling can lead to major problems for crop protection timing. What is currently missing between production agriculture and the pollinator industry is common ground of a good sound action plan to work together to make sure that both bees and agriculture can co-exist. That is where we are...we have to figure that part out. There are some states that have a pollinator action plan that works and works well. Not every state does and I am pretty sure Illinois does not have a plan.

We all met at the EPA building at the Federal Triangle. It took nearly 15 min for all of us to get through security. We met in a large conference room and after listening to the titles of the other government officials there made me realize that this really is a serious matter. It was a packed room and the meeting lasted nearly 1.5 hours. About 6 of us spoke from the Crop Life group and then the Assistant Administrator told us where the EPA stands and what his opinions are on all the matters. He was very professional and polite. He listened to all of us and looked us all in the eye when we talked. His comments to all of us were very serious and not to be taken lightly. We finished the meeting and met outside and had some final thoughts and comments on what the next step needs to be. I was a small, small part of this meeting, as there are many people on this committee that have vested lots of time. I did though; appreciate the opportunity to have a chance to speak on behalf of farmers on this matter. This issue is not over. Bee health will continue to be a focus. We are at the beginning of what will be a challenge that will be getting a lot of focus in media and in the government.

Local Foods Gaining Steam in Rantoul



Interest in local foods is increasing at a rapid pace. Where does your food come from? How does its production occur? Who is actually growing it? What is being done in Champaign County to meet the demand from local foods consumers and producers? Starting in 2015 you may not have to look any further than Rantoul, IL to answer some of those questions.

As the former Chanute Air Force Base began shutting down, they also began deeding over hundreds of acres of land and buildings to the Village of Rantoul. Businesses have moved in and out of the area utilizing buildings and land, but still leaving a great deal of land and buildings unused. Thanks to discussions of the Champaign County Local Foods Policy Council, one of its members got the idea that perhaps some of the land the Village owns might be suitable for local food production.

Though numerous barriers exist for individuals who want to get started in the local food production business, two barriers seemed to consistently rise to the top, land and money. After visiting with Village staff on the idea,



and garnering their support a steering committee was created to start developing a vision and focus for such an endeavor. The steering was comprised of representatives from the Farm Bureau, Parkland College, the University of Illinois including the Extension, the Rantoul FFA program and the Village.

One of the first steps the steering committee took was to secure two acres of land for the Rantoul FFA Chapter, to utilize and grow produce on. Under the leadership of Roman Fox, the high school's ag teacher and FFA advisor the students have learned some hard lessons about farming and gained some great insights on raising fruits and vegetables. "The Rantoul FFA Produce Production Project has had a positive impact in our chapter. This project has given many of our students, who traditionally do not have access to opportunities to produce various crops, a great chance to gain hands-on experience in produc-

tion agriculture" according to Fox. Roman went on to explain that "Our FFA Chapter has used the produce from the project to supplement food at our local food pantry, as a part of our school lunch program, and in several local road-side markets. We are looking forward to the 2015 growing season where we plan to increase the entrepreneurial opportunities for our members".

One of the next steps was the creation of Chanute Fields, LLC. It will be Chanute Fields, who will be leasing approximately 20 acres of land from the Village of Rantoul and is in turn, leasing the land to individuals



interested in producing local foods. This land is located within the limits of the Village of Rantoul. It is urban land that has been mowed and maintained over the years and is available for lease to beginning or established farmers who may be looking for expansion opportunities but are land locked. Bradley Uken, Chanute Fields, LLC Board Member says "There is significant interest in leasing the land and we are in the process of getting the leases signed. We are confident we will have a good number of various sized and production type of farmers on the land in 2015 growing local foods."

Another aspect of the overall project is the operation micro-food hub in Rantoul as well. The facility, which is operational today and has been utilized during the past growing season by the FFA Chapter, is outfitted with a cold storage unit, and stainless steel equipment. This allows growers to wash, pack, sort, and store food. Fees apply to utilize the food hub, but it is a convenient, and one of the first units in the area to be established.

Also in the planning stages at this point is the establishment of a downtown Rantoul farmers market for 2015.

If you are interested in acquiring more details on this project regarding leasing land from Chanute Fields or utilizing the micro food hub for 2015 or participating in the farmers market next year, you can e-mail Chanute Fields at chanutefields@

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU Equine Garage Sale February 21, 2015 9 - Noon

New Format:

- 8 foot tables are available for \$10 each to be paid with registration (registration form in January newsletter or on line www.ccfarmbureau.com)
- Sellers are solely responsible for displaying and selling their own merchandise and must provide their own change, calculator, bags, etc. Tables must be manned at all times.
- Sellers can start setting up their tables at 7:30 A.M. the day of the event.
- Not Responsible for lost or stolen items.
- Any questions, contact David at CCFB office at 352-5235 or David@ccfarmbureau.com

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Staying Busy with Earth Partners

by Myla Munro, Earth Partners Coordinator

Despite November being more like Novembrrr, Earth Partners and Sigma Alpha, the agriculture sorority at University of Illinois, partnered up to help educate 457 elementary students in 22 Champaign classrooms this fall! The sorority chose to talk about pigs and pork production in Illinois. On top of discussing some exciting agriculture facts with each class, the students created 3-D Pigs using plastic cups, construction paper and pipe cleaners!

After making contacts within several teachers, Earth Partners took our Pumpkins presentation into the two 2nd grade classrooms at Fisher Grade School. In each classroom we discussed the life cycle of a pumpkin and why bees are important in the process of raising pumpkins. The students also learned specific facts about pumpkins:

- Pumpkins are produced by pollination.
- Morton, Illinois is The Pumpkin Capital of the World.
- Pumpkin growth starts inside the flower.
- Illinois is the #1 state for growing pumpkins!



We finished out the afternoon on a high note by making 'Pumpkin Pie in a Bag'! The students helped calculate and measure ingredients and mix up our tasty treat. Several of the kids expressed that their pie was "the best pumpkin pie" they'd ever had!

Who says you can't eat ice cream when it's cold outside?

Earth Partners, Urbana After School and University of Illinois' department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism partnered up to host a Mad Scientists event at Leal Academy. The students rotated through eight stations where they created everything from lava lamps out of recycled Gatorade bottles, to exploding film canisters! Earth Partners not only explained to the students the science behind making Ice Cream in a Bag, but also had the opportunity to talk to each group and ask them if they knew where ice cream came from? I'm happy to report that all the kids knew that ice cream came from milk and milk came from cows!!

Exciting things are brewing in Champaign Unit #4 schools as they work to bring back an agriculture education department and Earth Partners is excited to be a part of the process! Marc Chagnon, the Education to Careers and Professions Program Coordinator, has been cultivating this idea for several months and this fall set out to establish an agriculture advisory action committee. Other groups that are represented on the committee include: Facilitating Coordination in Agriculture Education, Farm Credit Services, Kraft, Birkey's, Parkland College, University of Illinois/ACES and several others. Over the next few months, the committee will work together to establish the curriculum and staffing needs to offer agriculture courses to high school students at Central, Centennial and the Novak Academy by the fall of 2016. So many of us know about and experience the rewarding careers that the field of agriculture can provide, but by re-introducing agriculture programming in Champaign this message will be spread to a whole new audience.



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FINANCIAL

Half of Parents Haven't Saved For College

Bloomington, IL

While college hopefuls just submitted their early admission applications, many parents are finding themselves with far less than they hoped to have saved.

The latest COUNTRY Financial Security Index® survey revealed over half of parents (56 percent) have not started saving for their child's college education. It appears those saving habits don't improve dramatically with age, either. A large number of parents between the ages of 40 to 49 (52 percent) and 50 to 64 (47 percent) have not begun to save for the education of their children at all.

Despite this reality, many parents are optimistic about the amount of their children's education they can pay.

- Fifty percent of parents would like to pay for more than half of their child's education, and a quarter of parents hope to pay for all of it.
- Younger parents are among the most ambitious, with over half (54 percent) of 18- to 34-year-olds aspiring to pay for at least half of their child's education.

The apparent gap between parents' financial aspirations and their actual saving habits might be causing a majority of them to consider postponing retirement to make up the difference. Sixty-nine percent of parents say they would be willing to retire five years later if it meant their child would graduate from college debt-free.

"A child's college education can be one of the biggest expenses for parents, so it is easy to feel overwhelmed," says Joe Buhrmann, manager of financial security support at COUNTRY Financial. "However, planning can help relieve a lot of the pressure. Knowing how much loan debt your child is willing to take on and how saving for college fits within your overall financial plan are key issues to consider, especially since borrowing money for retirement isn't an option."

Making Family Finances a Priority

Saving for a child's education might not be the

only expense parents are underestimating. According to the latest version of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's annual "Expenditures on Children by Families" report, the approximate cost to raise a child to age 18 is \$245,000. When asked about the cost of raising a child, only 22 percent of Americans agreed and answered between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

Nevertheless, finances were, or will be, a significant factor for a majority of Americans in their decision to become parents.

- Fifty-nine percent said their level of financial security was, or will be, an important factor in their decision to become a parent, with a quarter of those citing it as a very important factor.
- Younger Americans are more likely to stress the importance of financial planning, with 70 percent of those age 18 to 29 saying it was, or will be, an important factor.

Financial Security Fatigue

The financial responsibilities of family life are causing parents to feel overwhelmed, while Americans overall are doubting the next generation's potential for success. A majority of parents (66 percent) say the current costs associated with having a child make it difficult to work full-time to provide financial stability while being a consistent presence in their child's life.

Meanwhile, 71 percent of Americans overall are generally pessimistic about the potential for the next generation to be better off financially than their parents, with nearly half (47 percent) saying it is not possible.

"Parents have the best intentions when it comes to their family's financial security," says Buhrmann. "As any parent will tell you, real life can disrupt even the best laid plans. If you feel you can't get on firm footing with your finances, consider working with a financial planner or someone you trust to see what changes you can make to improve your family's financial security."



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Current markets predicted by recent past

Byline: Joe Camp, AgriVisor risk management specialist, jcamp@agrivisor.com

With harvest wrapping up, we can now stand back and reflect on a growing season that has left us with record corn and soybean crops. We can also account for the previous marketing year, a period of continued transition from tight stocks to big crops - that has left us with lower prices. Let's take a look at where we have come and see if it tells us anything about where we might be headed.

First, consider the setup for our current crop. A harsh winter faded only slowly into spring, but producers were still able to plant 175 million acres to corn and soybeans. Summer weather was more than supportive to growers, with mild temperatures complementing generous precipitation totals for almost the entire Corn Belt.

Exceptional growing conditions were confirmed along the way by weekly USDA Crop Progress reports. Corn conditions held steady with

72 to 76 percent of the national crop rated good or excellent throughout the growing season. This crop's exceptional ratings compare with reports last year that never listed conditions better than 68 percent good or excellent. Soybeans were similarly well-rated.

The late start to planting was a burden for many, causing Prevent Plant and abandoned acres to rise by more than had been initially expected. For others, soybeans planted in moist soils suffered yield loss as a result of Sudden Death Syndrome and other various diseases. We stand amazed at the overall health of crops around the country while remaining appreciative of the fact that Mother Nature did not allow all producers to tally record-best yields.

Even so, prices throughout the growing season came to reflect what were favorable growing conditions as a whole. Yield expectations climbed steadily higher throughout

the season. As a result, more than \$1.75 was wiped from corn futures between May and October while soybeans tumbled about \$3.25 in the same period.

The losses should be partly viewed as result of the transition between marketing years. "Short crop, long tail," is the adage that fits the transition appropriately, whereby prices ease gradually to restore market equilibrium after a significant spike. The drought in 2012 led to higher farm returns that incentivized producers to plant corn and soybeans, but our demand base also had to be rebuilt after it balked at higher prices.

What we know about the previous marketing years helps to shape our outlook for demand in 2015. Just as they did this year, strong production totals in 2013 pressured prices well into harvest. In 2013, futures bottomed at the end of the calendar year. The focus of market partici-

pants quickly turned away from the size of the crop and shifted toward the prospects for demand. A similar situation may be observed this year if the current price weakness sparks stronger usage.

Look also to this year's growing season for guidance on prices in the next one. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that conditions will again be so favorable. Nor can we count on the rest of the world enjoying record corn and soybean crops together in the same marketing year again. Weather hiccups would cause a draw on stocks not a continuation of the recent build.

Uncertainties involved with the components of supply and demand always make for a unique crop year. Even so, we can turn to the past for justification of the current market environment and can rely on basic fundamental tenets for some direction on the future.

Farmtown Offers Customers a Variety of Products

By: Paula Blakley, Farmtown Manager

Farmtown is a lawn and garden center located in Urbana IL. Depending on the time of year, customers will find garden seeds, fertilizers, annuals and perennials, trees and shrubs, landscaping products, ice melt, bird seed and pet food.

We offer a variety of products for the holidays at Farmtown: Christmas Trees, Wreaths for your door, fresh greens for arrangements, Poinsettias, Amaryllis', Christmas cactus, and so much more. Do you have an entrance that you would like to spruce up? Design your own holiday containers with a variety of fresh greens, bows, and curly willow. Or, save time and purchase a pre-arranged container.

We also offer custom holiday memorial arrangements. Choose from 2 different sizes of grave blankets,



wreath crosses, or 12 " cemetery-pots, all filled or decorated with greens, cones and ribbons to to honor your loved ones.

Once again we will have Margie

Hinrichs teaching us how to make those fancy bows! Join her at 10am every Saturday through the month of December.

Our annual Pet Pictures are going on through the month of December. Bring your cherished pet into Farmtown and get their picture taken. Along with a print to walk away with, we'll email you a copy for your convenience. This year's donations are going to the Society of Hooved Animals Rescue and Emergency (SHARE)

Farmtown has plenty of great ideas for your Christmas list. We have a new line of tools from Joseph Bently that are 25% off for the month of December. Birdbaths, statuary, gloves and garden decorations always make a great gift. Of course, a Farmtown Gift Card is always appreciated!



We work hard at Farmtown to set ourselves apart with excellent customer service, knowledgeable staff, and our ability to offer hard-to-find products. We look forward to seeing you for the holidays!



February 5-13, 2015: *Tropical Costa Rica*

For more information pick up your brochure in the CCFB office or call Suzi Davis Travel at 866-592-0455 or 309-834-3739 for more information and/or make your reservations

February 5, 2015: *"Is There Life After Fifty?" at Conkin's Barn Dinner Theatre, Goodfield, IL*

Cost per person: \$81 Deadline: 1/5/2015



Is There Life After Fifty? was an instant sell-out hit at Conklin's in 2014, with many requests to hold it over, so we're bringing it back! Three couples who vacation together each year, on Labor Day weekend, have a wild time ahead of them. This year, the ladies have planned a little surprise: a healthy, all-natural weekend at a trendy health resort, complete with organic food and exercise. The men, who really come for the beer and snacks, are not pleased when they find out. Tensions escalate into an all-out battle of the sexes, and the cabin is divided, literally, into the men against the women. They battle over health food, exercise, pizza, The Godfather, rock and roll, hot tubs, hot flashes, tummy tucks and their refusal to become middle-aged!

March 21, 2015: *"American Passion Play" at Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts*

Cost per person: \$62 Deadline: 1/23/2015



HIS LIFE changed our World. The experience could change YOURS. You'll travel with Christ, seeing the world as He saw it. You'll follow His ministry and life from the Sermon on the Mount to the Resurrection and Ascension. You'll hear His words, as vital to you now as they were to the people of his time.

The American Passion Play, unlike other passion plays, dramatizes Jesus' entire ministry, rather than just the events from the Passion Week onward. His teachings on faith, love, justice and righteousness are still our best hope for solving today's complex problems. The message of his three-year ministry has a larger meaning for our daily lives than do the emotions of Passion Week alone.

May 13, 2015: *"The Last Potluck Supper" at CIRCA'21 in Rock Island, IL*

Cost per person: \$76 Deadline: 4/20/2015



ALL NEW SHOW! The latest and final installment in the uproarious series, the lovely ladies of the church kitchen serve up a rib-tickling panorama of the Church's changes, without spilling a drop of their egg coffee!

May 30, 2015, Day Trip to Josephine's Tea Room & Gifts in Godfrey IL

Cost per person: \$52 Deadline: 4/27/2015

Escape to Josephine's for the day, enjoy a delicious lunch, browse through our many shops and relax in the beautiful landscaped gardens. The gift shops are in the original house which once was part of Monticello College that was founded in 1838. The shops feature unique home décor, gifts, florals and accessories. Josephine's Monticello House features women's fashions, shoes, handbags, jewelry and accessories. The newest addition is Fred's Shed. It features sales, close outs and mark downs.

June 6, 2015: *American Girl Store in Chicago*

Cost per person: \$52 Deadline: 5/4/2015

Find shops featuring all of their characters—from historical favorites to My American Girl® dolls to their current Girl of the Year—plus Bitty Baby and the Bitty Twins. Add to the fun by exploring outfits, accessories, and furniture that help make every doll's world complete. Then browse their bookstore with titles that open up girls' imaginations. And don't miss Avenue AG, featuring specialty shops like Creativi-Tees for designing matching doll and girl T-shirts, plus more fun stops filled with adorable accessories, inspirational posters, treats to eat, and other surprises

June 18, 2015: *"Things my Mother Taught Me" at Conklin's Barn II Dinner Theatre in Goodfield, IL*

Cost per person: \$81 Deadline: 5/11/2015



Olivia and Gabe are moving into their first apartment together. They've just packed up all of their belongings and driven halfway across the country to start a new life together in Chicago. Their moving day doesn't go exactly as planned, though, and

things become slightly more complicated when all of their parents show up to help! Can a two bedroom apartment contain all of the love, laughs, worry and wisdom that's about to happen? This brand new comedy takes a generational look at relationships, and how sometimes parents are passing their best lessons on to their children without even meaning to. Funny and touching, this show will make you laugh out loud and fall in love all over again!

August 26, 2015: *"Boeing Boeing" at CIRCA'21 in Rock Island, IL*

Cost per person: \$90 Deadline: 8/3/2015



This French farce features self styled Parisian Lothario, Bernard, who has an Italian, German, and American fiancées, each beautiful airline hostesses with frequent "layovers". He keeps "one up, one down and one pending" until unexpected schedule changes bring all three to Paris and Bernard's apartment at the same time. You won't believe what happens next!

September 30, 2015: *"Route 66" at CIRCA'21 in Rock Island, IL*

Cost per person: \$90 Deadline: 9/7/2015



In Circa '21's tradition of presenting musicals that feel as comfortable as your favorite sweater, Route 66 is a new romantic comedy featuring catchy story songs and clever down home lyrics that move to the rhythm of America.

November 19, 2015: *"A Christmas Story" at Theatre at the Center in Munster, IN*

Cost per person: \$90 Deadline: 10/26/2015



Who will ever forget Hammond native Jean Shepherd's charming film about Ralphie's quest for the Red Ryder BB gun that long ago Christmas? This show with a cast of 4 adults & 12 young actors

brings alive the film right before your eyes. The department store slide with Santa, the leg lamp, the turkey stealing dogs, the easily thwarted bullies, and the poor kid whose tongue gets frozen to a flagpole – all those scenes will come alive in this most popular shows.

TRIPS STILL IN THE WORKS! Cummin's Diesel Engine Plant in Columbus, IN & Edinburg Premium Outlet • Day Trip to BAILEY'S DISCOUNT CENTER in North Judson, Indiana • Michigan – Mackinaw Trip



1 in 4 jobs in Illinois are Ag related.



Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 103rd Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau is called for Monday, January, 26, 2015, at the I-Hotel & Conference Center, 1900 South First Street, Champaign, IL.

Registration begins at 5 p.m.
Marketing Club meets 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: Harwood/Kerr, Ayers, Stanton, Champaign, Condit, Sidney, Pesotum, Brown, Colfax, & Mahomet.

2015 CCFB ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER Cody Morris, Illinois State FFA President



The Coles County native was a former chapter president of Mattoon High School FFA and served on the parliamentary procedure team as well as public speaking and livestock judging. Cody is carrying on the family tradition as his father, Rodney, served as Illinois State President from 1982-83. Mark your 2015 calendar and plan now to join us on January 26, 2015!
“AGRICULTURE:
THE FUTURE IS OURS!”

The 103rd Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Monday, January 26, 2015 – Dinner begins at 6 p.m.

The I-Hotel and Conference Center
1900 South First Street
Champaign, Illinois
Cost: \$15 per person

Registration Deadline: Monday, January 19, 2015

Return your check with this order form to:
Champaign County Farm Bureau
801 N Country Fair Dr.
Champaign, IL 61821

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS: _____

TOTAL INCLUDED WITH ORDER: _____

Credit card payments (Visa, MasterCard, Discover)
accepted over the phone
or at the CCFB Office, 217-352-5235.

2014 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The 102nd Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau was held on Monday, January 27, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at the I-Hotel and Conference Center, 1900 South First St., Champaign, IL. Ken Roellig gave the invocation.

President Lin Warfel welcomed everyone to the 102nd Annual Meeting of Champaign County Farm Bureau. Lin noted tonight we celebrate a year of hard work and achievements by over a dozen committees, affiliates and friends of our organization. We move forward with our annual meeting that is appropriately titled: “The Faces of Champaign County Agriculture.” Lin asked everyone to take special note of the front and back cover of their program and see if you know some of these outstanding farm families from around our county.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Lin Warfel. Lin asked that everyone direct their attention to the center of the room as the colors were presented by FFA members that were present and Young Ag Leader Chairman, Kirk Builta, led the pledge of allegiance. Lin noted that tonight history was being made as Champaign County Farm Bureau debuts their very own flag, designed over many hours by our own Women’s Committee members. Lin introduced all legislators and guests that were at the Annual Meeting who serve us in Washington D. C., Springfield, and locally. Lin recognized past presidents of our organization and introduced many other special guests here with us this evening including FFA members and Women’s Committee

members who spent several hours working on our County Flag; Barb Lech, Pat Smith, Rhonda Scott, Pauline Brock and Sharon Duitsman.

Call of the Meeting by Tim Frick
Tim Frick, Board secretary, gave the call to the meeting.

Credentials Committee Report by Lin Warfel

The Credentials Committee consisting of Eric Rund, Hal Barnhart and Paul Compton informed the president that a quorum was present. Therefore, the president declared that the 102nd Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau was legally convened.

Secretary’s Report by Tim Frick
Tim Frick reported that minutes of the 101st Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau was published in the December 2013 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, seconded and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Tim Frick 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 Bev Ehler
Bev Ehler 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 seconded and the motion carried.

Membership Report by Lee Warfel
Lee Warfel reported that Champaign County has made quota for membership since 2004. In all, 635 new members were signed last year, giving Champaign County a grand membership total of 10,552

members. Mark Douglas signed 5 new members making him the top Young Ag recruiter in the state. Bev Ehler signed 5, Lin Warfel signed 5, and Marguerite Zahnd was Champaign County’s top recruiter with 6 members signed. Lin thanked Country Financial Representatives for their work in signing new members; Bret Kroencke, 42 members signed, Stan Ochs, 45 and Chris Greenwold 54 members signed.

Introduction Current Board Members by Lin Warfel

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

Introduction of Retiring Board Members by Marck Pflugmacher

Mark Pflugmacher introduced the retiring Board members and presented them with a picture: Larry Roberts, Steve Eichelberger, Mark Douglas, Rick Aden and Don Wood.

Introduction of Nominating Committee by Mark Pflugmacher

Mark Pflugmacher introduced nominating committee which consisted of himself; chair, Mark Douglas, Scott Kesler, Rick Aden, Adam Watson and Don Wood.

Members Running for an additional term by Mark Pflugmacher

Members running for an additional term: Bev Ehler, Rantoul Township; Mark Baird, South Homer Township; Lin Warfel Tolono Township.

Candidates nominated for the First Time by Mark Pflugmacher

Candidates nominated for the first time: Jacob Kesler, East Bend Township; Paul Routh, Urbana Township; Tyler Flessner, Ogden Township; Adam Watson, Crittenden Township; Bob Furtney, Hensley Township.

President Lin Warfel appointed three tellers consisting of Reid Thompson, Brad Zwilling and Jeff Fisher. He asked for nominations from the floor and there were none. Motion was made that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot, motion was seconded, and motion carried to cast a unanimous ballot.

IAA Annual Meeting by Lin Warfel

Lin Warfel asked for a motion to authorize the Board of Directors to select the delegates for the 2014 IAA Annual meeting and to approve the actions and deeds of the Board of Directors of 2013. The motion was made, seconded, and carried to allow the Board of Directors to select delegates to the 2014 IAA Annual meeting and approve the actions and deeds of the Board of Directors of 2013.

Deputy of the Year by Eric Suits

Eric Suits introduced Deputy Sheriff Christopher Darr as the 2013 Deputy of the Year and presented him with a plaque.

Urban Ag Leader of the Year by Kirk Builta

Young Ag Leaders Chair, Kirk Builta named Jim Goss as the 2013 Urban Ag Leader of the Year.

IFB Award Recognition by Chris Hausman

Chris Hausman presented Champaign County Farm Bureau with the Liberty Bell Award.

CCFB Presidents Message by Lin Warfel

Lin Warfel thanked his wife Kay for all her support.

CCFB Manager Message by Bradley Uken

Brad recognized and thanked his wife Christine and children for their support. Brad also thanked everyone for their time and help in making this another successful year.

Adjournment of Meeting by Lin Warfel

President Lin Warfel asked for a motion to adjourn the 102nd Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau. Motion was made, seconded and motion carried to adjourn the meeting. Lin Warfel declared the Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Paula Zwilling introduced the speaker for the evening Katie Pratt.