

Illinois Farm Bureau Launches Rural Development Grant Program

Champaign County Farm Bureau members are eligible to apply for a new grant from the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) known as the Rural Development Grant Program. This grant is designed to support rural development projects that will positively impact Farm Bureau members and other rural Illinoisans.

According to the Illinois Farm Bureau, the grant is aligning with IFB policy and local government priorities, with the intention to elevate and provide additional focus on rural development. It will provide resources, tools and support to help local communities and counties overcome challenges inherent in rural development projects, such as lack of funding and volunteers, complicated grant applications and others.

Do you have an idea? Interested in applying for the Rural Development Grant? IFB is looking for projects that will meet a need in a community, county or rural area, and get residents excited about what is happening in their community. Examples could include projects that:

- Focus on attracting businesses
- Foster entrepreneurship
- Improve infrastructure and broadband
- Increase healthcare access
- Expand recreational opportunities
- Increase available housing
- Develop tourism
- Beautify communities
- Revitalize community spirit or engagement
- Enhance emergency services support (fire, emergency medical services, police)

- Otherwise positively impact farmers and rural Illinoisans

Rural development requires a team effort. The grants will be awarded in conjunction with county Farm Bureaus and their local partners. For more information about the program, please contact the Champaign County Farm Bureau at 217-352-5235.

FAQ's – Rural Development Grant Program

Q: How much funding is available?

A: IFB will award a total of \$25,000 to \$30,000 for rural development grants.

Q: Is there a minimum or maximum funding amount I can apply for?

A: No. However, IFB's intent is to award multiple grants, not just one large one.

Q: When are grant applications due?

A: We will accept grant applications on a rolling basis until all funds are exhausted. Once the funds are gone for this fiscal year, we will notify county Farm Bureau

managers and ask that they hold applications for other projects until the next fiscal year begins, assuming the pilot program is successful and continues.

Q: When will I know if I am selected as a grant recipient?

A: We will notify all applicants of their status within 3-4 weeks of receiving the application.

Q: What is considered rural?

A: There are many definitions out there of rural, including multiple ones used at the federal and state levels. Generally, if your community, county, or project meets any of these definitions, you are eligible for this grant.

Q: Does my community or county need to have a current and active strategic plan in place to apply?

A: While not required, preference will be given to projects that are connected to a strategic plan. Ideally, this grant will be a catalyst for moving the strategic plan forward from the planning stage to the execution stage and will get residents

excited about what is happening in their community or county.

Q: What if my community or county wants to create a strategic plan and needs financial resources to do so?

A: We will consider grant applications for funding to support the development of a strategic plan. In addition, while this is not the only option, we encourage you to contact the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University to learn more about their MAPPING the Future of Your Community Program. This program focuses on "strategic visioning, planning and doing" while utilizing the community's strengths and building community support. Learn more at <https://mappingthefuture.iira.org>.

Q: What types of projects are eligible for this grant?

A: As a pilot year, we are taking a broad approach on project types. We are looking for projects that will meet a need

Continue Grant Program, page 7

Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 113th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau is called for Thursday, January 18th, 2024 at the Champaign County Farm Bureau, 801 N. Country Fair Dr, Champaign, IL.

The business meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of consideration of any business which may be properly presented.

Directors from the following townships will be elected:

- Ayers
- Brown
- Champaign
- Colfax
- Condit
- Harwood/Kerr
- Mahomet
- Pesotum
- Sidney
- Stanton

Minutes of the 2023 CCFB Annual Meeting will be printed in the December edition of the CCFB newsletter.

Please fill out the information for the Proxy below and return by Jan. 5th, 2024 to:

Champaign Co. Farm Bureau
801 N. Country Fair Dr.
Champaign, IL 61821

PROXY KNOWN ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENT THAT

_____ (name of member) of _____ (address)

a voting member of the Champaign County Farm Bureau, a corporation organized under the law of Illinois, does hereby appoint and constitute Benjamin Rice of Sidney, Illinois, or failing him, Jason Watson of Villa Grove, Illinois, their true and lawful attorney to attend the annual meeting of the members of the Champaign County Farm Bureau to be held in the Champaign County Farm Bureau Building, Champaign, Illinois on the 18th day of January, 2024 and any and all adjustments thereof, and to vote for this member as its proxy and representative, the one vote which the member would be entitled to cast if actually present, upon any and all things competent to said member, as may in their judgement be necessary or advantageous for all interests of this corporation.

Member Name: _____

Member Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

This proxy can also be filled out electronically at
<https://form.jotform.com/champaignCFB/2024-ccfb-annual-meeting-proxy>

December Report



Paul Hunsinger, CCFB President

President, Paul Hunsinger

We sure have had some great weather this fall to finish harvest and get some of those extra jobs finished up on the farm. The first weekend in December will start off the Annual Meeting in Chicago. Along with a lot of new policy resolutions being discussed, there will be elections for President and Vice President. The current President Guebert is retiring this year, so this will be an interesting election to see who the new leadership in the Illinois Farm Bureau will be. I'll give an update next month on what happened at the annual meeting.

Sincerely,
Paul Hunsinger

Prime Timers Meeting

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED by December 11
Call the CCFB Office 217-352-5235

Meeting Date: December 14, 2023
Program: Dr. Good, Clinical Medical Advisor –
Health Alliance

Entertainment: Mike & Kathy Brake
Meal cost: \$8 per person

Important Information

- **FRIED CHICKEN BUFFET**
- No walk-ins
- Call to reserve your spot

CCFB Calendar of Events

December 2023

December 11	Women's Committee	9:30 a.m.
December 14	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
December 19	Governmental Affairs	7:30 a.m.
December 21	Full Board	6:30 p.m.

Women's Committee

*The Champaign County Farm Bureau Women's
Committee is open to all women interested in agriculture.*

Calendar of Events

Women's Committee General Meeting
Monday, December 11th 9:30am

Mark your Calendars!

**CCFB Members
join us for
EUCHRE.**



Dates: January 14th & January 28th

Location: CCFB Auditorium

Games - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

save the date

YOUNG

Leader
CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 2-3, 2024
PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN HOTEL
& BANK OF SPRINGFIELD CENTER
SPRINGFIELD, IL

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ERIC SNODGRASS

Merry CHRISTMAS

to all of our members!

Illinois Farm Bureau members receive a
\$500 EXCLUSIVE CASH REWARD
ON ELIGIBLE NEW SUPER DUTY®, F-150®, RANGER OR MAVERICK.

We value our long-standing partnership with Farm Bureau and are proud to offer you exclusive savings.

Illinois Farm Bureau Members
**SAVE UP TO
80% OFF
YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS**

You and your immediate family can instantly save on both brand name and generic drugs.



Don't miss out on this offer.
*Visit FordRecognizesU.com/FarmBureau today for complete offer details!



Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 19, 2023 – Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium

The 111th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by President Paul Hunsinger. The meeting was held in the auditorium of the Champaign County Farm Bureau.

Call of the Meeting by Benjamin Rice, Secretary

Benjamin read the official notice of the meeting: Notice is hereby given that the 111th Annual meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau is called for Thursday, January 19, 2023, at the Champaign County Farm Bureau, 801 N. Country Fair Dr. Champaign, Illinois. The business meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of consideration of any business that may be properly presented. Directors from the following townships will be elected: Crittenden, East Bend, Hensley, Ogden, Rantoul, Tolono and Urbana.

Credentials Committee Report by Benjamin Rice

Benjamin reported that the Credentials Committee consisting of Doug Downs, and Matt Schluter informed the President that a quorum was present. Therefore, the Secretary declared that the 111th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau was legally convened.

Secretary's Report by Benjamin Rice

Benjamin stated that minutes of the 110th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau was published in the December 2022 edition of the Champaign County Farm Bureau News. It is the recommendation of the Board of Directors that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with.

A motion was made by Benjamin Rice, seconded by Gerald Henry, and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Benjamin asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the last annual meeting.

A motion was made by Benjamin Rice, seconded by Jason Watson to approve the minutes of the 109th Annual Meeting as written.

Treasurer's Report by Brennon Breymeyer, Treasurer

Brennon stated that the Treasurer's report for the Champaign County Farm Bureau was available on the table or on the screen.

A motion was made by Brennon Breymeyer, seconded by Trent Wolken and carried to approve the financial statement be approved as printed.

Introduction of Retiring Board Members by Paul Hunsinger, President

Paul recognized the retiring Board members and presented them with a gift of appreciation:

Brennon Breymeyer from Ogden Township, Dale Franzen from Rantoul Township, Brian Krukewitt from South Homer Township and Tom Swigart of Tolono Township.

Introduction of Nominating Committee by Jason Watson, 1st Vice-President

Jason introduced the nominating committee which consisted of: Brennon Breymeyer, Tom Swigart, Dale Franzen, Brian Krukewitt, and himself.

Members Running for an additional term by Jason Watson

Jason shared with the board the members running for an additional term: Jason Watson Crittenden Township, Maynard Birkey East Bend Township, and Mark Jones Hensley Township.

Candidates nominated for the First Time by Jason Watson

Jason revealed candidates nominated for the first time: Chandler Bruns Urbana Township, Layne Ingram Ogden Township, Greg Johnson Rantoul Township and Jeff Fisher Tolono Township.

President Paul Hunsinger nominated Lucas McHarry, Casey Hettinger and Byron Mackey to serve as tellers who will count the ballots in case of a contested election. He asked for nominations from the floor and there were none.

A motion was made by Maynard Birkey, seconded by Tom

Swigart, and carried for the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominated candidates.

Approval of IAA Delegates and Actions and Deeds by Paul Hunsinger

Paul asked for a motion to authorize the Board of Directors to select the delegates for the 2023 IAA Annual Meeting and to approve the actions and deeds of the Board of Directors of 2022.

A motion was made by Greg Knott, seconded by Brian Krukewitt, and carried to allow the Board of Directors to select delegates to the 2023 IAA Annual meeting and approve the actions and deeds of the Board of Directors of 2022.

Adjournment of Meeting by Paul Hunsinger

Paul asked for a motion to adjourn the 111th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau.

A motion was made by Brennon Breymeyer, seconded by Dale Franzen, and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Paul Hunsinger declared the Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau adjourned at 7:37 p.m.



Oh, Tannenbaum



You may not associate agriculture as having strong ties to Christmas, but many Illinois farmers provide one of the most popular Christmas items your family probably loves- Christmas trees!

A holiday tradition for many, Christmas trees include different species of firs, spruces, and pines, all of which stay green year-round. These trees are grown and harvested in 45 different states. Across the country, over 300,000 acres are dedicated to growing a traditional holiday sight, the Christmas tree. Ninety-eight percent of Christmas trees are grown on farms, and unlike artificial trees made from plastics, real Christmas trees can be recycled to provide benefits to the environment.

A Christmas tree can take up to 15 years to grow to 6 feet tall, so for each tree harvested, Christmas tree farmers plant one to three more seedlings for each tree harvested. While it may seem like these trees grow in the perfect Christmas tree shape, it probably required shearing and/or trimming during their growth to look that way.

So, while your family is picking out that perfect tree this year, remember to thank the farmers that planted and cared for it so you can bring a fresh-cut tree home to decorate.

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Ag in the Classroom



Lesson Spotlight

Hey, HAY! Students feel and smell the difference between hay and straw, followed by a coloring quiz. Students also learn how switchel is made and get their very own taste.



Resources

Tower gardens are in full production already. Schools like Lincoln Trail in Mahomet are hosting salad parties, while others like Unity West Elementary are harvesting and offering the clippings to teachers and staff.



Egg incubator scheduling opens in January for two sessions.



Elf on the Shelf

Take your Elf on agricultural adventures with Illinois Ag in the Classroom idea booklet. Available at iaitc.co/elf for download.



Enter to Win



Post your Elf on the Shelf Ag-themed scenes to our Facebook page. The teacher or parent/grandparent with the most scenes posted will **win a Game Package!** Package includes: \$25 Amazon Gift Card, Agriculture Card Games of: Spot it Illinois and Corn, Soy, Hogs, Cattle, Pumpkin and Game Snacks.

One entry per person, per day. Contest opens December 4 and closes December 19. The winner will be contacted through Facebook.

Our lessons at the Grounded in Ag Breakfast gave everyone a classroom experience. We appreciate all your support.

thank you

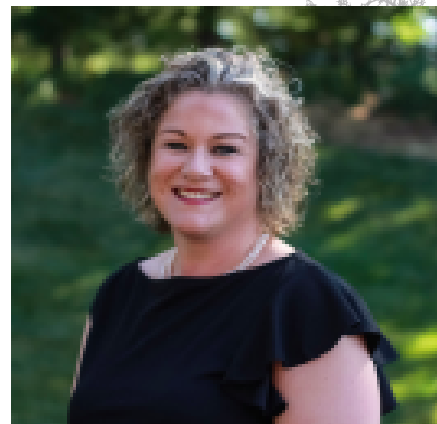


connect with us!

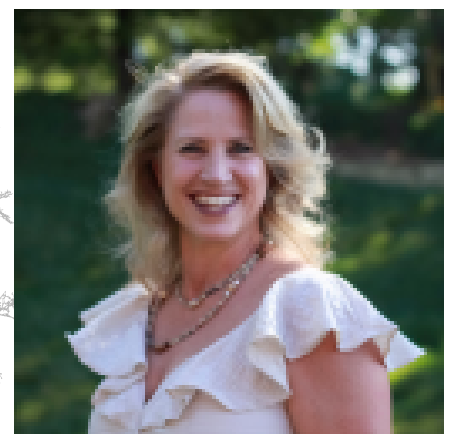
Sarah Kaper, Director & Educator
Julie Adcock, Educator

Thank You!

The new year will bring a change in leadership atop the CCFFB Foundation Board of Directors. Longtime board members Jessica Patzwith and Cheryl Mitchell will retire from volunteer service to the board after each serving six years. The CCFFB Foundation sincerely appreciates the time and effort they have invested in the organization and wishes them well in all their future endeavors.



Jessica Patzwith retires after a two-years stint as President of the Foundation's Board of Directors. The first woman to chair the organization, she previously served as Vice President of the Board. A long-time volunteer to the Foundation's mission, Jessica has been an fierce advocate for the future of agriculture. A native of Champaign County, Patzwith is a Senior Credit Officer at Farm Credit Illinois. She and her husband Travis, along with sons Harrison and Edison, live in rural St. Joseph.



Cheryl Mitchell has served as Vice President of the Board for the past two years. She previously served as Secretary of the board and has chaired the organizations scholarship committee. A former Mahomet Seymour educator, Mitchell is a keynote speaker, facilitator and podcaster.

Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago. Thank you Jessica and Cheryl for faithfully planting so many trees for us!



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Winter Home Maintenance Checklist

by Carrie Skogsberg

Winter weather can take a toll on your house if you haven't taken steps to maintain it. Before the next snowstorm arrives, be sure to tackle this winter home maintenance checklist.

Make sure your home is protected. .

1. Disconnect the garden hoses.

If you leave your garden hoses connected during winter, any water left inside the hose could freeze and cause the lining to crack. Also, if the main nozzle on your hose freezes, the ice could put pressure on the pipes connected to your house, which could cause them to crack or burst.

2. Prevent pipes from freezing by keeping the heat on.

If you *plan on being away from your home for a long period of time*, do not turn off your heating system. We recommend you set your thermostat at 65 degrees or higher to help prevent pipes from freezing and bursting under extreme weather and temperature conditions. Additionally, it is a good idea to leave your cabinet doors open and the faucet dripping at a pencil-thin stream during extremely cold temperatures.

*If you're going on a winter getaway, be sure to **prep a winter weather kit for your car!***

3. Shut off your water main if you're going away.

Some homeowners like to turn off their water when they're away from their homes for a long period of time. You likely have two shut off handles: one before and one after the water meter. We suggest you shut off the one before the meter. Then, relieve the pressure in the system by opening all faucets in your home. Leaving the faucets open while you're gone is up to your own discretion.

4. Prevent ice dams.

Removing leaves and other debris from gutters before winter can help prevent ice from forming inside the gutters, known as "ice damming." Ice dams are a ridge of ice that forms at the edge of a roof and prevents melting snow and water from draining off the roof. They form when heavy snow buildup melts during the day and then refreezes when temperatures drop overnight. Ice dams can cause severe damage to the interior of a home as the melted water and ice builds under roof shingles, causing water to enter the attic and damage ceilings, walls and personal property in its path.

If heavy snow or ice occurs, take the time to check your gutters and remove ice dams to prevent water damage to your home

5. Take care of your furnace.

How often should you change your furnace filter? Most HVAC professionals recommend changing your furnace filter every three months. Make sure you are keeping up with your filter changes and be sure to call your HVAC service provider for your fall service check-up before winter hits.

Checking off the to-do's on this winter home maintenance checklist will help you to prevent damage to your home, but if a loss occurs, ***your team at COUNTRY Financial*** is here to help.



Rhonda Wagner
Administrative Assistant
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Kolby Jackson
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Dawn Babb
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**KORY KRAUS,
GENERAL MANAGER**

From The Field

We have reached the time of year when the harvest is finally complete and reaping harvest rewards. This is also the time of year when many input decisions are being made for growers wishing to take advantage of prepay discounts typically offered this time of year. These discounts may include crop protection, seed, and overall plant fertility. We also typically start to see many introductions of new products for the next growing season. I want growers to begin to think about how products performed this year and whether they have utility for your operation or if further evaluation is needed. For this month’s newsletter, I will focus on how growers can make the best decisions for their operations.

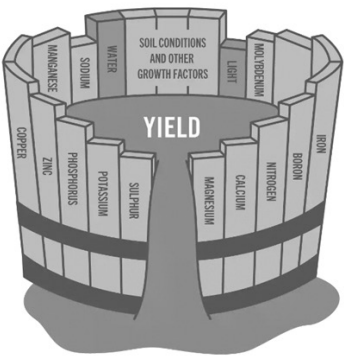
This is the time when growers are bombarded by advertisements for new products that will be new for the next growing season. The obvious advertisement campaign will include X bushels per acre yield gain. However, this is a bit of a loaded statement that needs to be broken down to understand further if implementing this new product into your operation and whether you can expect similar results next harvest. Below are KEY questions that all growers should ask before committing to a new product in their operation.

1. Where were the product evaluations conducted? If the product evaluations were conducted in several states, growing environments may not be comparable to local environments, or were the evaluations done on a national level and then compiled?
2. If evaluations were conducted nationally, ask what data is generated locally to gain deeper insights into local performance.
3. Were the product evaluations conducted to similar practices currently being utilized? This might include the following.
 - a. Row Spacing
 - a. Planting Date
 - a. Soil Fertility Levels
4. Who conducted the evaluations?
 - a. Basic manufacture of products, such as seed company.
 - b. Third party, an independent research group.
 - c. Universities, Land Grand Universities.
5. How were comparisons generated?
 - a. Replicated small plots.
 - b. Field scale testing.
 - i. Replicated Test Strips
 - ii. Treated vs. Untreated Blocks
6. Product performance statistics will indicate the likelihood of repeatability of product performance. An example is if there is a high CV value, which indicates low confidence in the repeatability of product performance. Another good indication of product performance will be a basic piano graph. Piano graphs will show all the wins and losses of a particular product.
7. Efficacy charts are another great resource to consider, especially if considering crop protection products will control a particular pest. Land Grand Universities usually generate these. One set of efficacy charts I utilize often is generated by the Crop Protection Network when selecting fungicide active ingredients that are effective for individual plant pathogen control.

An example of how one might put these questions to work would be when considering a new biological that claims to fix nitrogen for corn. This concept is relatively new, and corn has no natural capabilities to fix nitrogen like soybean or a legume crop can. Starting in order from the questions above.

1. If product evaluations were not conducted locally, it isn’t easy to assume similar results could be expected simply because the ultimate trump card of weather may not be like local growing environments in relationship to rainfall and temperature.

2. Typically, when national data is represented, this is a broad stroke and may not represent local environments or indicate high confidence in product performance.
3. For this particular type of product, soil fertility information and testing of this product will be crucial for determining if there will be an advantage of utilizing nitrogen-fixing biological. For example, if other limiting crop nutrients are deficient, addressing those before utilizing a nitrogen-fixing biological will be crucial. Please don’t forget about the Law of Minimum that Liebig formulated.



LIEBIG'S BARREL HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND:
• Identifying the limiting factors of your soil is an essential step in improving yield potential.
• Increasing the amount of plentiful nutrients will not increase potential plant growth.
• Increasing the amount of the most limited nutrient can you improve the potential plant growth.
• Protect the plentiful nutrients so they don't become limiting factors.

Image provided.

https://kochagronomicservices.com/knowledge-center/Liebig%E2%80%99s-Barrel-and-Limiting-Factors-of-Nutrients_2598.aspx

4. Who generated the data? It is important to know if multiple research organizations have conducted similar product research. This indicates that the data is biased if only the basic manufacturer has conducted the research. However, the data will likely be valid if third parties or universities have conducted similar research. Peer-reviewed research often provides the best data, so most human medical research is Peer-reviewed.
5. Understanding how the data was generated will often give greater confidence in a product. Small, replicated plots are great for screening a product’s performance across geographies. However, small plots don’t always present field variability as well. Field-scale testing is needed to understand if it will be repeatable at the farm level, but it is limited to understanding microenvironments. Field testing that considers replicated plots and whole field testing may provide the best insights rather than only relying on one testing method.
6. A good representation of statistics analysis will demonstrate confidence in product performance. That includes multiple years of testing and locations, often providing the best statistics for repeatability. If a product came into the marketplace with only 1 years’ worth of data in only one location, it would not be a product that I would personally recommend.

In conclusion, all of these aspects of understanding how data is generated will provide insights into how well a product might perform. It is also known as metadata or “data about the data.”

At Illini FS, we compile a book with all the comparisons and evaluations of products we test locally. However, with the limited resources and often the limited number of times a product is tested, we cannot provide statistics but simply if a product performed and whether it provided a positive return on investment with current grain marketing prices. I view Illini FS’s On-Farm Discovery book of yield trial results as the last validation of whether Illini FS should represent a product. If readers of this newsletter have questions about any of the discussed topics, please contact me with questions or comments.

*Eric Beckett, CCA 4R NMS
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Christmas Crazed

Ready to celebrate the season on the farm

“I’m sorry; I’m a little Christmas obsessed,” I texted our farm’s scale operator. My attempts to stream holiday tunes through the tractor radio failed. Rather, my smartphone connected over the internet to a speaker miles away in the scale house where an employee was weighing truckloads of corn. “Haha, yeah there’s been some Christmas music here and there,” she texted back ... on November 2.

I was born to love this holiday. A Christmas Eve baby, my parents celebrated Christmas in the hospital. Mom brought me home in a stocking and thankfully before one of the worst blizzards on Illinois record – the type that prompted our farm and others to buy tractor-mounted snow blowers.

Today, I have more Christmas tunes than country songs in my playlist. I own a half dozen full-sized, decorated trees and an undisclosed number of evergreens shorter than two feet. Admittedly, I’m “one of those” who decorates before Thanksgiving. I leave our outdoor lights off until the turkey and pumpkin pie are served, but indoors, my mood and mental state have moved on to staircase garland and lights on timers. I figure that if I can decorate with pumpkins for six weeks or more, then greenery deserves as much time out of the tote.

During a harvest rain-out in October, I bought cow-themed wrapping paper and balsam-scented air fresheners. I started shopping lists and volunteered to help with our church’s Christmas Eve service. Mom and I worked on details for our farm’s employee Christmas party, including gifts that bring conveniences to life and work. Likewise, new and improved tools always make it under the tree at family gatherings, two of which we will host in the farm shop.

In preparation for these four-generation events, the guys pause machinery maintenance, remove the farm equipment and scrub the concrete floor. Delightfully, the kids make memories of gymnasium-style fun to a backdrop of tools,

Grant Program continued from Page 1

in a community, county, or rural area. Examples could include projects focused on attracting businesses, fostering entrepreneurship, improving infrastructure and broadband, increasing healthcare access, expanding recreational opportunities, increasing available housing, developing tourism, community beautification, revitalizing community spirit/engagement, enhancing emergency services support (fire, EMS, police) or other projects that positively impact farmers and residents.

Q: Are matching funds required?

A: No. This grant can be used without matching funds to support a project or it can be combined with other funding sources for projects that are larger in scope. However, if you are able to use this grant to leverage or generate matching funds,

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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Hours: Monday – Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Manager – Bailey Edenburn
Communications Director – Lesley Gooding
Administrative Assistant &
Membership/Outreach Coordinator – Emily Cler
Membership & Outreach Coordinator – Maggi Maxstadt
Ag in the Classroom Director – Sarah Kaper
Ag in the Classroom Educator – Julie Adcock
Foundation Director – Kirk Builta

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



that is great.

Q: How will the funding be disbursed to grant recipients?

A: Grant funding will flow to the county Farm Bureau making or supporting the application and they can then disburse it to the partner(s) leading the project as appropriate.

Q: What will be required for the grant impact reporting?

A: The impact report will ask for a summary of the completed project and the impact it is having to date. It will also ask you to confirm or update the details outlined in the application such as the participants, engagement, final budget/expenditures, and other relevant information. Having a few pictures of the project from start to finish would also be appreciated.

Q: When is the grant impact reporting due?

A: Reports will be due within four weeks of the conclusion of the project or no later than August 1 of the grant fiscal year.

Q: What if my project is one that needs a longer period of time to be completed due to the size or complexity of the project?

A: If the project is going to extend beyond the grant impact reporting due date, please be sure to indicate the specific timeline and planned steps as requested in the application. In place of a grant impact report, we will request a status summary/update be submitted by August 1 of the grant fiscal year, then a full grant impact report upon completion of the project.

Q: Will you accept a multi-year project?

A: We are unable to commit to multi-year funding. However, you can apply for funding each grant cycle for an ongoing and/or multi-year project.



oil drums and welding materials. In the conference room and shop kitchen, we dine and snack on foods from some of the best cooks in farm country. When everyone departs, a star shines atop the grain bin and a lighted tree illuminates the barn’s loft window. Come Christmas morning, the same will glow while Dad feeds the calves at dawn, a daily routine that takes no holidays.

At the scale house, a Christmas tree sits covered in a back corner waiting for its post-Thanksgiving appearance near the front windows for highway travelers. Even with my musical urging, our scale operator resisted any inclination to expose it early and rock around the Christmas tree during harvest.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in west-central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and cover crops and raise beef cattle, backyard chickens and farm kids.

Food Safety: Good Food Gone Bad

Author: Michelle Martel Carle BroMenn Medical Center

‘Tis the season for home cooked meals enjoyed in the company of family and friends. Yet, even exceptional holiday feasts are vulnerable to foodborne germs if food safety guidelines are not followed. A cooked dish not heated to proper internal temperature or left out too long on the buffet table can produce germs, such as E.coli or Salmonella that make you and your guests ill. Additionally, sharing meals in close quarters with large groups of people enhances the risk of picking up and passing bacterial infections.

Here’s a few seasonal tips on how to pass the *figgy pudding* – not *food poisoning* and provide safe food handling during the upcoming holidays!

- **Start with a Clean Kitchen** – Use hot & soapy water to clean countertops, cutting boards, pans and cooking utensils and rewash often. If you don’t already have a food thermometer in your kitchen, now is the time to purchase one. Remember to calibrate and keep it clean between each use. Another good purchase is a free-standing refrigerator thermometer. Your refrigerator should always be temping to 40°F or below.
- **Grocery Shopping** – Keep meat in separate bags from other items and refrigerate perishable foods within two hours or purchase.
- **Cooking a Holiday Meal** – Thaw turkey in the refrigerator inside a container to prevent any juices from leaking on other foods; or in a sink of COLD WATER that is changed every 30 minutes. It is safer to cook stuffing separately. IF you can’t cook stuffing separately, put the stuffing in the turkey just before cooking. Use a food thermometer to make sure turkey meat and the stuffing’s center reaches a minimum of 165°F.
- **Hosting a Holiday Party** – Serve food in clean dishes with clean “dedicated” serving ware to avoid cross-contamination. Keep *HOT* foods *HOT* (140°F or warmer) and *COLD* foods *COLD* (40°F or cooler). Practice safe food handling to prevent foodborne bacteria. Have hand sanitizer on or near the buffet table in a festive pump!
- **Enjoying Holiday Leftovers** – Keep track of how long foods have been sitting on the buffet and discard anything that has been left out for 2+ hours. Food will cool down quicker in shallow pans and always move immediately to the refrigerator. Food should not be cooled to room temperature before refrigerating. Reheat all leftovers to 165°F. Use, freeze or discard leftovers within four days.

A couple other safety items to keep in mind during the holidays...

- **Drinking Responsibly** – If you do have an alcoholic drink, have it with food. Alcohol can lower blood sugar and interact with diabetes medications. Beware of alcoholic contents in punches, egg nog, and other mixed beverages. Always designate a nondrinking driver before any party or celebration begins!
- **Preventing Home Fires** – Never leave the stove unattended, even for a few minutes AND turn off burners if you leave the kitchen. Keep potholders, wooden utensils, food packaging and towels away from stovetop and oven. Check that the batteries are working in smoke alarms. Small fire extinguishers should be within easy access, and check expiration date. Give your friends & family the gift of a scrumptious safe holiday meal and serve dishes that are sure to make the holidays merry!

For more information, visit Carle.org or the Carle Center for Rural Health and Farm Safety at (217) 902-3117.

Women’s Committee Hosts Veteran Tribute With Flightless Honor Flight

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee joined forces with Land of Lincoln Honor Flight to bring a “flightless” Honor Flight for local veterans, in November.

Over 60 veterans took part on a beautiful day at the Windsor Road Community Church in Champaign, along with their family and friends who served as their escorts.

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight provides free flights to Washington D.C. for veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Veterans visit the nation’s monuments, including those memorializing their branches of military service as well, as those who lost their lives serving alongside them.

Visits include stops at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and the National Air and Space Museum, all of which veterans and others at the event were able to see during their flightless Honor Flight experience on Monday.

The program began with Mahomet American Legion Post #1015 Color Guard posting the colors, followed by a medley of patriotic songs played by pianist Jan Fisher, and trumpeter August Niehaus.

The flightless Honor Flight, which included an approximate 90 minute video of a previous Honor Flight, was led by Land of Lincoln Honor Flight Veteran Coordinator Steve Wheeler and Land of Lincoln Honor Flight President Joan Bortolon.

“You guys did the hard work, and don’t ever forget that,” Bortolon said. “Every day we wake up free is a good day, and because of what you did, your service and your sacrifice, all

of us can have a lifetime of good days. “And we thank you for that.”

As the program ended, our own Farm Bureau member and local country music legend, Marvin Lee Flessner encouraged us all to join him in singing, “God Bless America”. It was a perfect way to wrap up our tribute.

Each veteran was given a hand sewn patriotic fabric bag filled with mail that included letters from local community senior volunteers from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and school children from several Champaign County schools, thanking them for the sacrifices they’ve made.

When our guests exited the church, area residents greeted them outside with flags waving, and applause and cheers to express their appreciation for the gathered veterans.

One of those veterans who took part in the program was Harold Wheatley of Champaign, one of 13 remaining survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima. Mr. Wheatly most recently participated in a documentary on the Discovery Channel which is now in the Library of Congress.

“I learned about the Flightless Honor Flight and shared information about the program with fellow committee member’s months ago. All members agreed this would be a perfect way to honor our veterans at our bi-annual tribute. Many volunteered to help organize the event and assist on November 13th, which we believe was the first of its kind in the Champaign County area. What a pleasure to be able to honor our veterans in such a manner. We heard many sentiments of appreciation from those who attended,” said Marilyn Whalen, CCFB Women’s Committee Chair.

Photos by Jill Rannebarger



Certificate Passed - Senator Paul Faraci and Landon Stenger, Chief of Staff for St. Senator Chapin Rose presented veterans in attendance with Certificates of Appreciation for their service.



Ready for guests



Committee Volunteers - Committee Volunteers for the event: L to R: Front Row: Vicki Goodmann, Shirley Berbaum, Carol Froeschl, Pam Sisco, Nancy Strunk, Carolyn Graham, Sharon Duitsman L to R: Back Row: Marilyn Whalen, Paulette Brock, Loretta Stoerger, Ronda Scott, Karen Reitmeier. Missing from photograph: Juanita Henry, Judi Stierwalt



Musicians - Jan Fisher and August Niehaus perform



Color Guard - Mahomet American Legion Post #1015 Color Guard



Flag Waving - Thank you Custom Service Cranes from Fisher!



Mail - a small portion of the letters and cards that filled mail bags

WOMEN’S COMMITTEE RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Juanita Henry

The recipe was given to Juanita by her mother-in-law – Gertrude Henry

LEMON JELL-O SALAD

Ingredients

- 1 box - small lemon Jell-O
- 1 c. hot water
- 1 lg. pkg cream cheese
- ½ c. celery, ½ nuts
- 1 ½ c crushed pineapple, undrained
- 1 – 8oz Cool Whip

Preparation

Dissolve Jell-O in hot water
Blend cream cheese in Jell-O while hot
Add celery, nuts, undrained pineapple
Stir in Cool Whip and refrigerate until set.



Cookie - Cookies from Hunny Bunny Bakes were enjoyed by all



Steve Wheeler - Steve Wheeler, LOL Honor Flight, Flight Coordinator