



Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 93, No. 9 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821 September, 2015

“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.”

Illinois Farm Bureau/Champaign County Farm Bureau Support Independent Map Amendment

The Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) and the Champaign County Farm Bureau (CCFB) are supporting the Independent Map Amendment coalition, a group seeking an Illinois constitutional amendment to change the way state legislative districts are drawn.

“This is a great opportunity for the voters of Illinois to put on the ballot an option for change,” said David Erickson, vice president, IFB. “Illinois Farm Bureau members have long sought to bring an independent process to the way our state legislative districts are drawn and this proposal is a balanced approach.”

Champaign County Farm Bureau members can expect to see CCFB Legislative Committee members and other CCFB Board Members in the community asking registered voters to sign a petition in favor of redrawing legislative districts by an independent commission. The coalition’s goal is to gather 600,000 signatures of registered voters by April 2016. The Illinois Constitution requires that any petition seeking to amend the Legislative Article of the Illinois Constitution gather at least 290,216 valid, registered voter signatures.

The CCFB Legislative Committee is taking the lead role in educating the membership about the redistricting amendment. “The passing of this amendment will make more sense about where legislative district lines are drawn. The results will be a better placement of different districts. Champaign County Farm Bureau’s involvement will be really good for Champaign County. We have a very strong membership and it would be great to bring those kinds of numbers to an issue that will have a

positive effect on all of us!” says Chris Murray, CCFB Legislative Committee Chairman.

CCFB Past President Lin Warfel points out three key differences regarding the current push to pass the Independent Map Amendment versus past attempts:

1. The Illinois Farm Bureau Legal team has studied this proposition carefully and believes this amendment can pass legal muster as opposed to past attempts.
2. A group of high profile lawyers, astute with constitutional law, went over the amendment with a fine tooth comb. These lawyers studied every detail and find it to be in compliance with the constitution. It will be tested, but it can pass!
3. The Federal Supreme Court passed and approved a similar amendment in Arizona. Illinois has studied the Arizona amendment and it has given Illinois strength with the submittal. “We are delighted the Illinois Farm Bureau has joined the fight for fairness in the redistricting process,” said Dennis FitzSimons, Chair of Independent Maps. “Illinois farm families want a fair shake in Springfield and understand that the current way state legislative districts are drawn makes that more difficult. Last November, only one candidate was on the ballot in 60 percent of legislative elections. Voters deserve better: Elections with choices, where issues are debated and candidates listen to their constituents.”

The proposed constitutional amendment would create an 11-member independent redistricting commission to draw legislative districts for General Assembly members. The commissioners would be selected at the same time of each federal decennial census, with the first commission appointed in 2021.

Continue MAP on page 3.....

Notice:
New office hours at Champaign County Farm Bureau
New hours of business: 8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m.

INVEST AN ACRE With Eastern Illinois Food Bank

By: Kristen Bosch - VP of Development & Community Partnerships

It’s hard to believe that in a nation that produces much of the world’s food, 49 million people still face hunger. Did you know that right here in Champaign County nearly 35,000 people struggle with hunger; almost 8,500 of them are children?

Eastern Illinois Foodbank helps our neighbors struggling with hunger – in Champaign County and the broader 17 county area - by providing over 7.5 million pound of food annually. But we need your help to alleviate hunger in eastern Illinois and nourish stronger communities.

Farmers across America are banding together to help fight hunger in communities like ours. Through the Invest An Acre program, farmers can donate a portion of crop proceeds to help hungry families in their communities. When a farmer donates through the Invest An Acre program, 100% of the contribution goes directly to Eastern Illinois Foodbank. For every \$1 donated, Monsanto will match the donation – DOUBLING THE CONTRIBUTION!

Invest An Acre is a program created by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. Partners in the program include: ADM, Monsanto, Cargill, Farm Credit Services of America, AgriBank, MFA and a growing number of cooperatives and elevators.

Donating is easy! You can make an online donation here <http://www.investanacre.org/>, donate at your local elevator or send a donation to Eastern Illinois Foodbank and note “Invest an

Acre” on your check.

If you have questions about the program, visit <http://www.eifoodbank.org/action/investanacre.html>. You can also contact Kristen Bosch at Eastern Illinois Foodbank at kbosch@eifoodbank.org or 217-328-3663.

How It Works

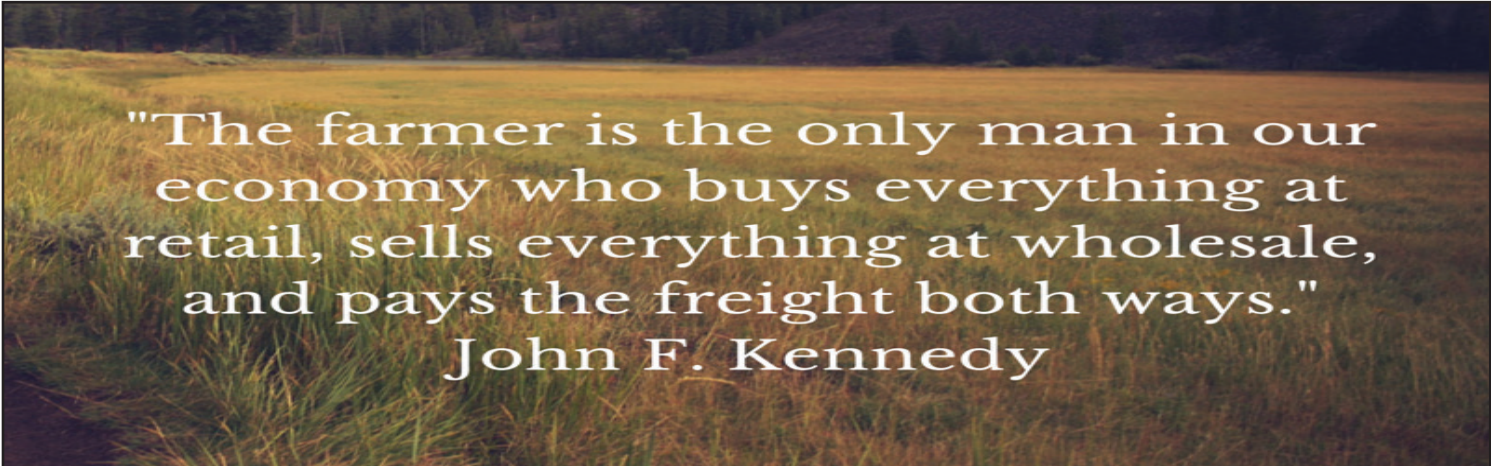
- 1.) Fill out your grain contract and allocate a donation amount
 - 2.) Deliver your crops to the grain elevator
 - 3.) 100% of your donation funds your local food bank or eligible local pantry
 - 4.) The local food bank supplies food that feeds people in your community
 - 5.) Your donation will be matched at least dollar for dollar because of the generous support of our partner Monsanto!
- INVEST AN ACRE AND FEED YOUR COMMUNITY!**
-Participating Local Elevators- Cargill

Cargill
The Andersons

The Andersons
Premier Cooperative

PREMIER COOPERATIVE

Serving Farmers Today, Preparing for Tomorrow



"The farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale, and pays the freight both ways."
John F. Kennedy

**The Champaign County
Farm Bureau Young Ag Leaders**
would like to thank
Agrible, Inc.
*for sponsoring the meal at
our Summer Farm Forum!*
www.agrible.com

Defensive Driving
Tuesday, September 16 and
Wednesday, September 17
8 a.m. to Noon
BOTH days!

Cost: \$17
Your Instructor:
State Police Officer Tracy Lillard

Farm Bureau Auditorium
RESERVATION DEADLINE: Sept. 8



August President’s Report

August 27, 2015

First Day of School, Yield Tours, Harvest Clinics; The summer that never really started is now almost over. As spring weather pushed planting and crop protection activities later into the summer, dry

weather in July-August and warm temperatures that are expected make us aware that harvest is just around the corner. As our farmer members prepare for harvest, CCFB has been busy with a wide array of activities.

We started the month off with our annual Tool Shed Meetings sponsored by the Viewpoint Committee. Mark Gebhards, IFB Government Affairs Directors provided members insight into many issues occurring at the State and Federal levels. Special thanks go out to the Zahnd, Rice, and Waters families for hosting the events and to you the members for attending and making it a record setting day for this program in attendance of over 130 members total.

August also provided CCFB members the opportunity to share perspective and get questions answered on the national level during the Afternoon with Your Congressman event on August 21. We thank Congressmen John Shimkus and Rodney Davis for taking the time to speak on issues and to John Reifsteck for hosting the event.

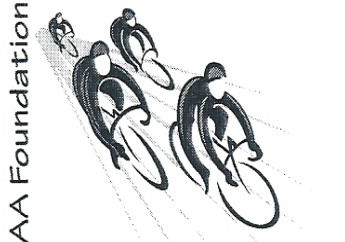
Agricultural Ambassadorship is in full swing in Champaign County with Eric Rund hosting a group from China on August 21 and groups coming from South America on August 31 and September 5. Special thanks to members who are hosting and CCFB partners who are taking time to speak with these groups and representing CCFB in a special way.

We also had a District 12 IFB meeting in Paris on August 24 capping off the summer member input period on the Future of The Organization. This was right in front of the 1st Statewide Taskforce meeting on this topic that I attended on August 26. This will be a multi-year program that has a goal of making recommendations at the state and county levels in the latter part of the IFB Centennial Year of 2016. Looking forward into September, CCFB appreciates the opportunity to host the 20th and Final Ag

In The Classroom Bike Ride September 7-10. Please also consider the opportunity to take part in the Activator Fund Raiser at Steve Hettinger’s on the evening of September 3. Enjoy the end of Summer and be safe as you prepare and start this harvest season.

- Eric Suits

A fundraiser for
Illinois
AGRICULTURE
in the ClassroomSM



BIKE RIDE



**HELMETS
REQUIRED
NO EXCEPTIONS!**

CYCLE TO SUPPORT ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

The 20th annual Bike Ride will spin through Champaign, Ford and Vermilion counties this September.

This fundraiser for Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) makes brief stops at schools along the routes to raise awareness and convey the important message of agriculture to Illinois students.

FOUR ROUTE OPTIONS & SCENIC HALF DAY

All routes begin & end in Champaign, IL

Tuesday, September 8

Short route approx. 40 miles
Long route approx. 80 miles

Wednesday, September 9

Short route approx. 40 miles
Long route approx. 80 miles

Thursday, September 10

Short route approx. 15 miles - Scenic Group Ride



“Check Your Calendar!”

September



8-10	Bike Ride	
10	Prime Timers - Marvin Lee	10a.m.
14	Women’s Committee	9:30a.m.
14	WILL Fall Outlook at Farm Credit	6:30p.m.
15	Legislative Committee Breakfast	7:30 a.m.
16,17	Defensive Driving	8-noon
17	Full Board	7 p.m.
18	PEARS REPORTS DUE TO CCFB	NOON

October

8	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
28	WOMEN’S COMMITTEE “KNOW YOUR GMOs”	6:30p.m.

Note: Most Committees do NOT meet in October - Have a SAFE harvest season!!!



The Challenge

Are YOU Up For It?

*Stop by the Champaign County Farm Bureau
Office and pick up petitions today!*

*We are challenging YOU to get 20 signa-
tures to help support the Independent Map*

Amendment

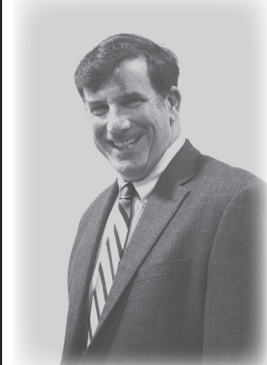
Call today! 352-5235

Champaign County Farm Bureau



Brad Uken to Receive News Gazette Honor!

CCFB is proud to announce that Manager, Brad Uken, will be named one of the News Gazette’s 40 Under 40 Young Business Leaders at a luncheon slated for October 8. Uken was chosen based on achievement, experience, innovation, leadership and community involvement. CCFB recognizes Brad for all of his achievements and involvement!



Joe Burke, Chairman
Marketing Club

As We
**SPRINT TOWARD
HARVEST,**
What Should Our
Marketing Strategy Be???

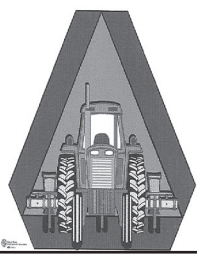
**WILL Radio - AM 580
Fall Outlook Meeting**

Monday, September 14th

(one week later than normal due to the Labor Day holiday)

6:30 p.m.

Farm Credit Illinois



**CAUTION,
SLOW DOWN,
SHARE THE ROAD!**



A Preface - Harvest 2015

By: David Fulton

As harvest 2015 approaches, there are signs of fall already here. Farmers are attending crop tours and determining what hybrids of corn and varieties of soybeans they will plant for the 2016 growing season, local grain elevators are publishing projected yields and machinery are being serviced. Harvest is also a time to remember the dangers of highways, country roads and rural routes.

Crop tours are a great tool for the farmers to decide what corn hybrids and soybean varieties are performing the best in the growing area. Soil type, weather variations and available soil nutrients also factor in to this decision making process. Just like a new shoe, farmers want to make sure a certain hybrid or variety fits their farm environment. Local elevators typically host yield tours to predict and project a potential yield outcome for a given growing area for the upcoming 2015 harvest. Farmers want to find out what other field yields are in the area to give a sense of a goal or know a general point where their fields may be yield wise. When machinery is used, like anything mechanical, it has the potential of breaking down. Break downs can hinder the ability to move at an efficient pace in the field, or hauling crops to and from the elevator. Machinery is typically serviced well before it is needed, and this preventative maintenance is similar to a family car. A combine is made up of hundreds of moving parts and these parts add up to an exceptionally expensive machine. Keeping moving parts well-greased, making sure fluids are topped off and sharpening the cutter bar are important to the longevity of these machines.

During the growing season, fields have been scouted for weather problems, insect and disease damage and nutrient deficiencies. Just as a field is scouted during the growing season, fields need to be assessed before harvest. Farmers are looking for signs of foliar damage,

root growth, grain quality, moisture and overall crop condition. These characteristics help farmers determine the overall health of their crop, and help determine the readiness of a field for harvest. The assessment even establishes what order fields will be harvested in. In the late growing season, when the corn is tall, the rural intersections are difficult to see past. Blind corners, or “corn corners” as you may have heard them called, have always been a dangerous factor on the rural roads. These corners are any intersection where there is corn on either side of the road, preventing you to see oncoming traffic. When approaching these corners be sure to come to a complete stop, where there is a stop sign, and yield cautiously if there is not a sign present. Most accidents happen because of the failure of stopping the vehicle and scanning the surroundings before proceeding. Loose gravel is also a factor on these rural routes, always be sure to leave enough time to come to a complete stop.

As we approach harvest, it is important to remember that we need to share the road, not only as farmers operating machinery, but as motorists too. Always keep a safe distance when following machinery. Look for an SMV emblem (SLOW MOVING VEHICLE) – the emblem is an orange triangle situated on the backside of machinery indicating that it is a slow moving vehicle. Instead of assuming when the right time to pass equipment would be, look for hand signals to motion that it is safe/clear to pass them. Other ways of motioning a safe pass would be pulling machinery over to the side, or them motioning that you can pass. A tip to motorists would be to stay on roads that you are familiar with, and do not use country roads as shortcuts. As the expression goes with any vehicles – “share the road.”

“As Seen in the News Gazette”

****Please remind your neighbors, family and friends of these safety tips this harvest season****

Continue MAPS from pg. 1

New districts drawn by the commission would be contiguous and substantially equal in population and would comply with federal law. All of the commission’s meetings and records would be open to the public. After a majority of commission members approve a plan, the new districts would be established.

“The basic structure of the map in Illinois is flawed. Currently, 90% of incumbents get reelected every year. If we continue to do what we have always done nothing is going to change!” says Lin Warfel. In response to some opposition to the amendment Lin says “This amendment will provide structural change as we go forward and is very careful to maintain minority representation. California also passed a similar measure which had an immediate and strong impact on changing their government!”

Chris Murray encourages all members to be part of the change and sign the petition today! To find out more and to become involved in legislative issues affecting you please join us for the next Legislative Committee meeting, open to all CCFB members, Tuesday, September 15, 2015, at 7:30 a.m. in CCFB Auditorium.

Signatures will be checked against voter registration cards!

When signing the petition

- Sign EXACTLY as your name appears on your voter registration card
- Do not abbreviate
- Spell EVERYTHING out including County Road, Street, etc

3 Ways to Show Our Support

- You can sign petitions at the office
- Documents can be notarized and collected at office
- We can make you copies at the office

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORT
AND COMMITMENT**



**Members Can Save
With Case IH**



Save up to \$500

**on qualifying
Case IH tractors and
hay equipment from
participating dealers.**

You can use this discount with other Case IH promotions or offers.



**For more information,
contact your county Farm Bureau
or visit ilfb.org/member.**

*A current Farm Bureau membership verification certificate must be presented to the Case IH dealer in advance of product delivery to receive the incentive discount. Farm Bureau Members can download a certificate at www.verifiedbycaseih.com. Not a Farm Bureau member? Reach out to your county Farm Bureau to join today.



**Champaign County
Farm Bureau**

**801 N Country Fair Dr
Champaign, IL 61821**

Phone: 217-352-5235

www.ccfarmbureau.com



**Know Your GMOs
With Nutrition Specialist
Leia Kedem**

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee invites women of all ages to learn more about GMOs!

The CCFB Women’s Committee invites you and your friends, family or neighbors to an evening of GMO education.

With the recent increase of curiosity about genetically modified products, the Champaign County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee is hosting an educational evening at the Farm Bureau Auditorium.

The event will take place on Wednesday, October 28th at 6:30p.m.

The topics that will be covered include:

- The basics of GMOs
- Consumption and labeling of GMOs
- GM food crops & nutrition

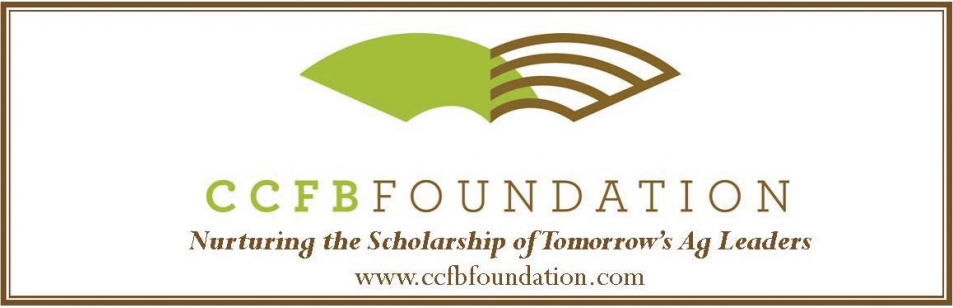
Please RSVP by October 23rd to CCFB@ccfarmbureau.com or call: 352-5235

CALL NOW! SPACE IS LIMITED!

**Follow CCFB on
Facebook, Twitter and
Instagram!**

Champaign County Farm Bureau Communications Director, Lesley Gooding is asking CCFB members to send her pictures of members working around their farms, getting ready for harvest, family fun events or anything else! This request is being made to fulfill our website photo blog!

You are cordially invited to attend our 8th Annual Harvest Gala. This is our most important fundraiser of the year and extremely critical toward meeting our mission of supporting Education in Agriculture through our Ag Literacy and Scholarship Programs. Thanks to your generosity our Earth Partners Ag Literacy programs impact over 9000 primary school students each year and our Scholarship Program provided over 50 \$1,000 in scholarships for the 2015-16 school year.



Location – Pear Tree Estate, 2150 CR 1000 E, Champaign, IL Date and Time – November 20th starting at 5:30 PM Silent Auction and Cocktails at 5:30 PM Dinner by L.A. Gourmet at 7:00 PM Live Auction beginning at 7:30 PM Tickets are available at the Farm Bureau Office, 801 N. Country Fair Dr, Ste A, Champaign, IL 61821.

A form is provided below that you may mail in to the office. You may order online at www.ccfbfoundation.com. Click on Harvest Gala. Ticket ordered in advance are \$45. Tickets at the door will be \$55. Be sure to enter our Cash Raffle.

Admission:

Tickets: Quantity _____ @ \$45 each Total _____

Names _____

Cash Raffle

Tickets: Quantity _____ @ \$20 each Total _____

Quantity _____ @ 6/\$100 Total _____

Here is a sample of some of our new Live Auction Items for this year

Englebrecht Smoker Grill
Date Night - Multiple area restaurants
Take all the planning out of Date Night, Entertainment & more
4 Polar Express Tickets for 2016
Farmhouse Fraternity Work Day
John Deere Gun Safe

Mexico Timeshare Package
Choice of 5 Villa del Palmar location
Subject to availability, 7 nights
Wisconsin Getaway Package
Large, lakeside cabin in N. Wisconsin
More to come

Farm to Fork:
Where does my food come from?

By: Myla Munro
The Champaign County 4-H program and Earth Partners have partnered to create a local Teens As Teachers program that we're calling, Farm to Fork. Our partnership initially was looking to provide training and support for 8-10 teen teachers, but we have happily accepted 17 teens into the program! Teen Teachers were recruited from two local FFA Chapters, Rantoul and Unity, to help our efforts of expanding the understanding of agriculture in the lives of Champaign County young people. This partnership with Champaign County 4-H and FFA pairs two fantastic youth organizations with Earth Partners' vast amount of agricultural education resources. In addition to teaching about agriculture, this opportunity is also a great learning and leadership opportunity for the Teen Teachers to put on scholarship applications and resumes in the future! The Teen Teachers attended two days of training at the Champaign County Farm Bureau office where they partici-

pated in team building activities and learned how to create lessons using the 4-H Learning Model. Equipped with this information, the group was divided up into six groups and created components of their weekly lessons using Ag in the Classroom kits. The six topics that will be taught are: Corn, Soybeans, Vegetables, Dairy, Pumpkins and Apples. Each lesson contains three distinct components; agricultural education information geared to 8-12 year olds, a craft and snack that is centered on the topic for the week. After completing their lesson, the teens did 'teach-backs' where they lead staff and their fellow teens through the activities that were planned. Teach-backs are a valuable tool for the teens because it allows them to have a practice run of their lesson and make necessary changes before they are in front of a classroom of students. The group of Teen Teachers will spend six weeks throughout the fall visiting after-school sites in their community, which include the Rantoul Multicultural Center and the after-school sites at Unity East and St. Thomas Catholic School, leading their agricultural education lessons.

Unity FFA member, Jeff Bragg and Rantoul FFA members, Elaine Barnett and Johanna Roelfs, share with the group with what they believe the "I" in 4-H's BIG-M model on Positive Youth Development means to teenagers.

During the Teen Teachers' well deserved breaks and lunch an epic game of 'Spoons' occurred!

Myla Munro, Earth Partners Coordinator

Miranda Sellers (Rantoul FFA), Madison Wilson and Erin Stevens (Unity FFA) presented their lesson on apples to the group during the 'teach-back' portion of the two-day training held at the Champaign County Farm Bureau office.

Jada Burr (Unity FFA) explains to the group how to incorporate 'Popcorn Math' as part of the Corn lesson during the Farm to Fork after-school program.

4

Faces of Illini FS

Meet Scott Kesler, Board of Directors

By Lesley Gooding



Scott Kesler (left) and CCFB Manager, Brad Uken (right) discuss upcoming events and plans. Kesler is also a director for the Somer Township on the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board.

Scott Kesler is fairly new to the Illini FS Board of Directors. He stepped in to this role 1 ½ years ago, filling the shoes of past board member Roger Grace. Scott grew up on the farm and continues to grow corn and soybeans in northeast Champaign County. Scott says “My time on the board has been great, I am really enjoying it!”

Scott just returned from the Illini FS board retreat in Moline, IL. Directors focused on the business side of Illini FS discussing where Illini FS will be in the future, what they see happening, the rapid changes with technology and the impact this will have on the business. Directors also toured the John Deere combine facility and were able to learn about new John Deere operating systems on sprayers and how these systems can be implemented into Illini FS operations.

Scott says during his time on the board he has learned “about the big picture of Illini FS. Illini FS Board of Directors meetings are intense meetings held once per month. Meetings cover all aspects of Illini FS such as gas, propane contracts to sales figures including past, present, and future numbers; contracts on hand and contracts sold; sales structures; tire store operations to FS Farmtown. We cover everything!”

Scott farms land that has been in his family for generations. What is Scott expecting to see during

harvest? “We are not sure what we will find in the fields. We have good spots and bad spots. It will be very interesting to see what harvest holds for us.”

Scott works hard, but does find time to enjoy the finer things in life! Scott is a NASCAR fan, enjoys watching Dale Earnhardt Jr. and would love to go to Bristol Motor Speedway or the Duel at Daytona (formerly the Twin Races). Scott and Joyce enjoy an occasional outing on their boat, visiting Lake Shelbyville or Clinton Lake. The family also enjoys visiting warmer climates in the winter and has traveled at different times throughout the years visiting Mt. Rushmore/Appalachian Mountains, Las Vegas, and Florida, to name a few.

Scott, a Chicago Cub fan, is happily married to Joyce, a St. Louis Cardinal fan. Scott and Joyce are active in their local church. Scott is in his last few months of his term as a Champaign County Farm Bureau Board Member, is a past member of the Champaign County Fair Board, and is a member of the Stanton Somer Drainage District. The Kesler’s have four children – Tim, Dan, Chelsey, and Calvin. One more interesting fact about Scott Kesler, his birthday falls on the same day the Titanic sank and Abraham Lincoln was shot, April 14!

illinifs.com



Matt Hoose
Crop Insurance Specialist

Agronomy Update

By: Lesley Gooding
Champaign County Farm Bureau will be checking in with Matt Hoose, Illini FS Crop Insurance Specialist, periodically throughout the fall for an update on crops and field conditions.

CCFB: What have you found during yield checks in Champaign County?

Matt: “I have done a handful of checks and found corn yields as little as 180 to as much as 230 on the high end. I would say 210 is the average I have been seeing.”

CCFB: Are you seeing a big difference in yields throughout the county?

Matt: “There are weak areas north of St. Joseph and Ogden. The further south you go in the county the better the crops. There are some water pressure spots everywhere.”

CCFB: What are you anticipating with the bean crop?

Matt: “I have no idea on soybean yields, it is too early for an estimate. The pod set on the beans I have looked at are good!”

CCFB: Any concerns for the upcoming harvest?

Matt: “Right now corn plants are maturing rapidly. The plants are putting all their resources into filling the ear. The conditions are right for stalk quality to possibly become an issue. During the growing season corn lost nitrogen with all the rain and the roots never had to look for moisture.”



Mike Turner
General Manager

Propane Autogas
in the FS System
August 13, 2015

Businesses and organizations are recognizing the benefits of switching from gasoline or diesel fuel to propane autogas and there are many reasons why:

- Propane burns cleaner with fewer toxic emissions
- It’s easier on engines, saves on maintenance costs and prolongs engine life
- Propane qualifies for tax credits, rebates and incentives as an alternative fuel
- Domestic propane production reduces our dependence on foreign oil
- Propane-fueled engines provide similar power, acceleration and driving range

While the FS System is enjoying the benefits firsthand through the use of propane powered vehicles, the real excitement has come with supplying and servicing customers such as school districts and municipalities. Everyone is seeing how this clean-burning fuel is helping extend drain intervals, improving winter operability and saving money.

Growing Forward, Information from Corporate and Government Relations

• GROWMARK submitted comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding concerns on the proposed rule on “Risk Management Approaches to Identifying Options for Protecting the Monarch Butterfly” To read our comments

• GROWMARK submitted comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding concerns over the aspects of their proposal are not based in sound science and do not address all factors related to pollinator health.



Vann Parkin
Country Financial
Agency Manager



Travis Heath
352-4555



Keith Garrett
485-3010



Jessie DeHaan
352-3466



Craig Voigt
328-0023



Terry Hill
469-9800



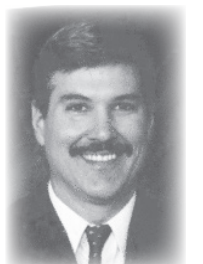
Bret Kroencke
359-9391



Nathan Hubbard
892-4479



Brian Lowry
352-0186



Stan Ochs
352-3296



FINANCIAL

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT



Marcia Woolcott
Administrative Assistant
Champaign Agency



Chuck Rippey
586-5030



Chris Greenwold
355-8675



Dan Duitsman
469-2033



John May
352-3341



Aaron Wheeler
586-6170



Steve Derry
352-2655



Scott Jackson
359-9335



Jim Nelson
892-4479



Flipside: Reps go the distance for St. Jude (with Flipside treatment)

When Financial Reps Chris Greenwold and Terry Hill braved the central Illinois heat July 31 to help their team complete the 102-mile charity run, something amazing happened.

Greenwold and Hill joined 28 others to raise \$55,400 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital during the 19th annual Champaign to Peoria St. Jude run. The experience allowed the two Champaign-Piatt-DeWitt-Agency reps to strengthen existing relationships in their community, and build valuable new ones.

The right choice

Returning for their third year, Greenwold and Hill lobbied to make COUNTRY Financial the lead sponsor of the Champaign team. With help of Agency Manager Vann Parkin, the agency contributed \$1,000 from its Agency Choice budget toward the sponsorship. That enabled the team to sport green COUNTRY Financial shirts at the finish line.

"We believe the run and what St. Jude does for families is phenomenal. To put our name on an event like that is a wonderful gesture," said Parkin. "This helps people see we're local, we support them and we're involved and invested in our community."

Preparing for this event also proved a team effort. Agency office assistant Marcia Woolcott's alignment of sponsorship details and Greenwold and Hill's promotion of the event with the St. Jude banner on their corporate Facebook pages made a big difference for the team's support of St. Jude.

Running for a worthy cause

Both reps ran due to personal connections to St. Jude:

- *Along with Parkin, they're good friends with a distinguished community member who ran in memory of his brother who died of cancer at a young age.*
- *Greenwold's grandfather spent years serving children as a pediatrician and teaching Leukemia classes at the hospital.*
- *Two runners from the Champaign team are parents of a St. Jude patient, who served as the run's poster child.*

"As reps, we have an obligation to support our community in any way we can," said Greenwold. "We're responsible to be leaders and champion causes in our community."

Going the distance

At the kickoff event, team donors and several hundred community members gathered to show their support. It gained coverage from local newspapers and media.

After setting off for Peoria at 5 p.m. on July 31, the runners ran what they could. Greenwold regularly works out and Hill is a conditioned runner, so the two struck a wager for who had the most endurance. The defining moment for the friendly competition came at one of the stops along the way.

"I just finished running my thirtieth mile and was resting on the team bus, when Chris staggered on, I could tell he was hurting," said Hill. "I asked him how many miles he had in and he answered 'one more mile than you!'" That's when the gloves came off. Together they ran another five and a half miles beyond their 30 mile goal, relying on each other for strength and support, much the way patients and their families rely on St. Jude.

A rewarding finish

They arrived in Peoria at 4 p.m. the following day. Hill recalls the emotional tug of getting high-fives from patients and survivors, "I did this for the kids – they don't have an option of whether or not they want to be there."

After the run, the Champaign team joined runners from 38 other cities to kick off the annual St. Jude Telethon. The team proudly presented their \$55,400 check, much more than their \$38,000 goal.

Relationships built, relationships strengthened

The sponsorship and his participation helped Greenwold build relationships with people and community pillars. "They become resources for you, and you for them," he said.

Hill will carry the experience with him when he goes into people's homes and meets with families. He wants to represent the reassuring voice that says, "I'm here."

"I've gained compassion for people and families who don't enjoy the same luxuries I do," said Hill.

Parkin encourages managers and reps to look for things they can do to make a difference. "A few dollars can be a worthwhile investment."

Salute the Red, White and Blue with Prime Timers

on September 10 starting at 10 a.m.

Program:

Polar Bears

Music by:

The Ever Popular MARVIN LEE!

- Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month

- Cost is \$8 to attend

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

Mark your calendar - Don't miss a single Prime Timer date!

Prime Timers 2014:

October 8

November 12

December 10

Prime Timers Notice:

For almost 20 years the Prime Timers Committee has offered \$5 meals at their monthly meetings. Recently this price has increased due to changes with HOMETOWN BUFFET. HOMETOWN has offered a price break for many years, but simply put, they can no longer offer that break in pricing. Ken mentioned at the last meeting that the new cost per meal was \$8.50, but the Prime Timers will only be charging \$8.

For the September meeting, please bring \$8 with you to attend. We greatly appreciate you understanding this change and we are happy to still be able to offer a great meal at an affordable price at every Prime Timers Meeting!!

To Reserve your spot for September, please call (217) 352-5235

Marvin Lee will be playing music this month.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday
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801 N Country Fair Dr
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August Recap!



It was a busy August for Champaign County Farm Bureau, photos below are from some of the events!



Mark Gebhards, IFB Government Affairs Director, shares further information at the Rice Family Farm



Congressman John Shimkus after Afternoon with your Congressman.



Mark Gebhards spoke to Champaign County Farm Bureau members about hot topics in Illinois agriculture and gave insight on issues and where Farm Bureau plays a role.



Lee Strom visits CCFB to present on "Farm Illinois"



Past President, Lin Warfel, speaks about MAPS at our legislative meeting lead by 1st vice president, Chris Murray



The Champaign County Young Ag Leaders volunteered at the Eastern Illinois Food Bank for a food repack event!



Bob Easter gives an introduction for the "Farm Illinois" presentation.



Eric Snodgrass, Agrible, Inc. speaks about the weather risks in Agriculture at the 2015 YAL Farm Forum. Other speakers that evening included: Dennis Bowman, U of I Extension, covering UAVs in Ag and Brian Waibel, Waibel Farmland Services, discussing landowner transitions.



Congressman Rodney Davis, at Afternoon with your Congressman, after enjoying Sidney Dairy Barn Ice Cream!