

Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 94, No. 2 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821 February, 2016

“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.”



Above: As a continued effort, the Mahomet Jr. High reached out to the Champaign County Farm Bureau to help set Ag career presentations for the 8th graders. Above Left: Theresa Meers shares her career experience with students interested in plants. Above Right: Luke Zwilling shares his career experiences about technology and how he gained interest in the subject. The presentations were educational and a conversation starter.

Career Aspirations and Answers

Champaign County Farm Bureau and Mahomet Jr. High 8th grade educators have teamed up to educate students, 13-14 years of age, about careers in agriculture. The purpose of this event is to educate youth about careers in the agricultural industry that may already be an interest to them. David Fulton, CCFB Assistant Manager, contacted 7 individuals which were professionals in subject areas where students showed interest. The Mahomet Ag Career Talks were set up for two different dates presenting three subject areas at each. These programs are important to youth because agriculture has

a place for everyone. The categories presented on were based on common interest and the existing hobbies of the Mahomet/Seymour 8th graders. Each session was concluded with a time for questions and answers. Some students asked more details about the career being presented and others asked about career background on the presenter. This program gives great insight to today’s youth that will become tomorrow’s leaders. **Topics included:** Animals, plants, technology, math, food and communications. The Mahomet Jr. High 8th graders participated in an earlier survey that ranked their interests in the previous categories. The topic areas are not specific to give a better understanding that the agriculture industry is not limited or narrowed by one certain job function in each category.

Don't Forget!

The Equine Committee garage sale will be Saturday, February 27th. This event will be held at the CCFB building and will start at 9a.m. and goes until noon. Please see page 8 to learn more or register to sell. For more information please call David Fulton: (217) 352-5235

The Champaign County Farm Bureau 104th Annual Meeting

AGRICULTURE: Second to None!

By: David Fulton

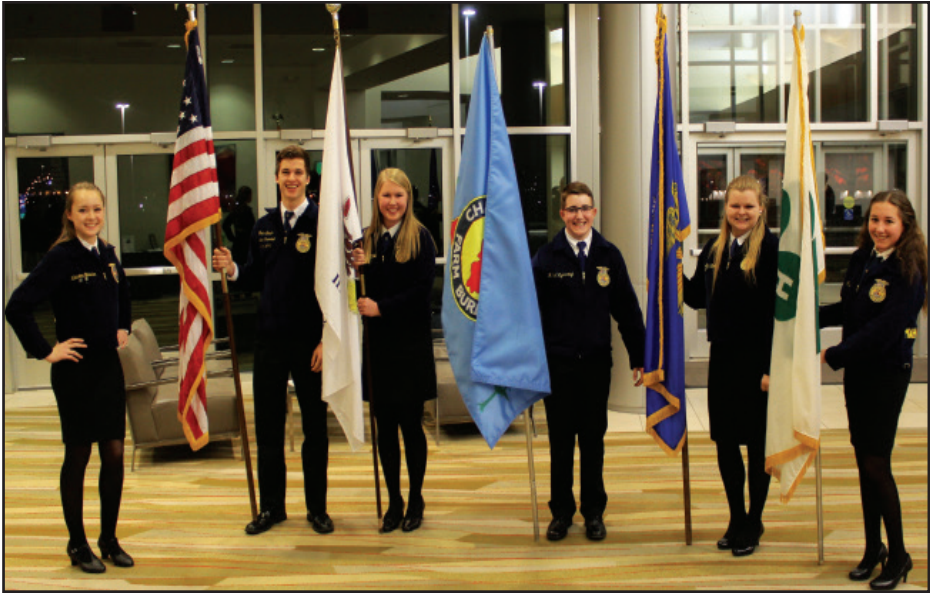


Above: President Eric Suits and Dr. Robert Easter after the 104th Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on January 25th at the I-Hotel and Conference Center. Dr. Easter was our featured speaker for the evening and Easter also recieved the Urban Ag Leader of the Year Award, presented by Luke Zwilling - 2015 YAL President.

The 104th Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was a success, January 25th 2016 at the I Hotel and Conference Center. There were 310 in attendance the evening of the meeting. The themed event was appropriately titled, “Agriculture: Second to None”. Illinois has long-claimed agriculture to be its number one leading industry, giving farmers a home to be proud of and start families. Retiring directors included: Eric Suits, Compromise Township (President); Luke Zwilling, Young Ag Leaders (YAL) President; Kenny Decker, Philo Township;

Tim Frick, Raymond Township; Scott Kesler, Somer Township; Josh Green, Newcomb Township. New Directors include: Virginia Busboom, Compromise Township; Daniel Herriott, YAL President; Andy Hughes, Philo Township; Christi DeLaney, Newcomb Township; Justin Leerkamp, Raymond Township; Steve Hammel, Somer Township; Mike Briggs, Ludlow Township. The Champaign County Farm Bureau (CCFB) staff thanks the retiring directors for all of their hard work and continued support of the organization. This organization’s success comes from it’s members just like YOU. We appreciate your time and volunteer efforts. The CCFB staff also welcomes the incoming directors of the board!

Thank You Mahomet/Seymour FFA!!



Out with the Old



More Change! The old business sign is down and now in the process of raising the new one!

2016 Illini Farm Toy Show



The Young Ag Leaders of Champaign County Farm Bureau and Vermillion County Young Leaders had their annual farm toy show in January. The show was held at the Wyndam Garden Plaza. The event included the Learning Barn, a live farm toy auction and numerous vendors selling their farm toy collections.

A big thank you to YALs Sarah and Brandon Hastings and Lynn Doran for organizing and being chairpersons for this great annual event.

Thank you to all of our retiring directors of the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board. Your time and support is greatly appreciated by our organization. We wish you the best on your future goals and accomplishments.

-CCFB Staff

ATTENTION
LADY LANDOWNERS!

Join us at 9:30 a.m. on the following dates
for interesting discussion on a host of topics
of interest to YOU!



FEBRUARY 15: Darrel Good at CCFB Auditorium

March 21: Illini FS tour (Leverett Location)

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



ALL FARM BUREAU MEMBERS WELCOME!!!
Games start at 2 p.m. and last until 4 p.m.
Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium

Mark these dates on your 2016 calendar!!!

February 14
February 28
March 13



“Check Your Calendar!”
February - 2016

8	Women’s Committee (Special Valentine’s Potluck!)	9:30a.m.
9	Issue Series - Craig Gundersen (Food Sustainability)	6:30p.m.
11	Prime Timers	10a.m.
15	Lady Landowners	9:30a.m.
16	Legislative Committee	7:30a.m.
16	Premier Ladies Marketing	9a.m.
18	Full Board	6:30p.m.
24	Sewing at Pat Smith’s	
27	Equine Garage Sale	9a.m.

March

5	CDL Class	7:30a.m.
13	ALOYTT - Euchre	2 p.m.
14	Women’s Committee	9a.m.
10	Prime Timers	10 a.m.

Please visit our website to find locations**



February President’s Report

Greetings to all of you. Hope that everyone had a Happy Holiday Season and are off to a strong start in 2016. It is strange to think that this will be the last report that I will be addressing you as your president of Champaign County Farm Bureau. A year goes by pretty fast these days. I would like to take this opportunity to recap some of the year’s highlights that we experienced. Starting off with CCFB Foundation, we finalized the multi-year effort of consolidating the activities of the Earth Partner’s Ag Literacy Program with the Scholarship Program within the Foundation. I want to thank the individuals from all sides of this issue for their patience, diligence, and creativity as we dealt with the issues around this transition. Change always comes with some degree of anxiety but I do believe that we can do more not only within these two areas of the foundation, but future directions that the Foundation might pursue under the new structure. The CCFB Foundation also went through the challenges of redeveloping the job description for its Executive Director and the full time replacement of its Executive Director. I sincerely want to thank Larry Wood for serving as Interim Executive Director of the Foundation and extend a warm welcome to Kirk Builta as he embarks on the new challenges and opportunities of being named as the new Executive Director of the CCFB Foundation.

We also completed the divestment of the Health Insurance side of CCFB’s Business portfolio under the Partners for Agriculture structure. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve our membership base with this unique service offering for almost 30 years. We sincerely want to thank Donna Huxtable for her diligent service to our policy holders and to CCFB. We will miss her and wish all the best that her future endeavors can provide. We will continue our research in finding another key revenue concept for the CCFB to pursue that enhances its ability serve you as our membership and the community. Illinois Farm Bureau embarks on its year of celebration of its 100th Anniversary in 2016. I have faith that Champaign County will draw from its experience and be a vital part of assisting IFB in honoring this momentous occasion within our organization.

I will continue to serve on the Future of the Organization Task Force that will hopefully provide our recommendation report to IFB during summer festivities of the Centennial Celebration. We certainly hope as a committee that some of the ideas that come out of our research will assist in keeping IFB and County Farm Bureaus vital in the next 100 years. In closing I want to thank all of you as CCFB membership for the opportunity to serve. CCFB has a lot to be proud of in being leaders within Farm Bureau in many ways that are too numerous to mention. As president, I felt the foundation of support from you while being involved in activities at local, state, and federal levels. I wish CCFB all the success that is possible as you move forth in positive directions and challenges in an ever changing environment. I certainly have the faith that I can serve more effectively as a CCFB member after having the opportunity to serve as a board member for the last 6 years. Respectfully yours,

Eric J. Suits

Join the CCFB Women’s Committee

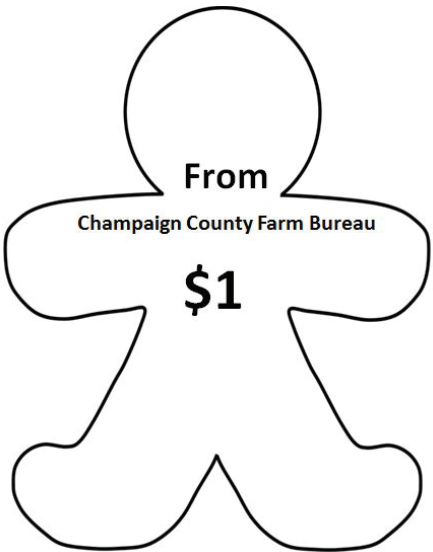
The Champaign County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee is Open to all ladies in the Farm Bureau. The women’s committee meets every second Monday of the month (except May and October) at 9:30a.m. with lunch to follow, February will be a potluck (bring a red, white or pink dish to share).

The Women’s Committee is highly involved in education and awareness, typically youth and consumer education. To honor Champaign County farmers, the Women’s Committee is recognizing the efforts made by farmers. National Ag Week is on March 13-19 – the CCFB Women’s Committee is having a donation drive to raise awareness for food insecurity and display the message “National AG Week ONE farmer feeds 155 people!”

They will be accepting donations for the Eastern Illinois foodbank from now until March 19th, with the goal of 155 people donate in the amount of a

dollar or more. After your give a donation, you will get a cutout of a person to sign your name to display your support! Stop by the Champaign County Farm Bureau Office today!

EXAMPLE:
Cut outs will be hung in office window



Bring a friend, or family member with you to a committee meeting! Committees are a great way to network and become involved with fellow Farm Bureau members.

Call today! 352-5235

Champaign County Farm Bureau

AFBF Annual Meeting Recap

By: Chris Hausman

For the first time in 16 years, delegates elected a new AFBF president. Vincent “Zippy” Duvall of Georgia was elected to a two-year term as president and Scott VanderWal of South Dakota was elected as vice president. Illinois Farm Bureau helped shape national farm policy as American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) delegates adopted all 11 policies submitted for consideration by IFB during the national convention in Orlando, Fla. during the second week of January. Several of the proposals strengthened support of renewable fuels. Delegates adopted an Illinois-submitted policy addition re-emphasizing the importance of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and opposing “attempts to defund, repeal or rollback implementation of the RFS.” The Environmental Protection Agency recently released its final RFS volume requirements for 2014, 2015 and 2016. The volume requirements ended up slightly higher than first proposed, but still fell below congressionally-approved mandates. Delegates also supported standardization of all new gasoline dispensers to be UL certified for a minimum of E25, and adoption and use of renewable fuels by the Department of Defense.

Other Illinois proposals approved included:

- * Support cooperation among hog producers, veterinarians and packers to allow the timely marketing of animals infected with a non-reportable disease, such as Seneca Valley Virus, where animals are safe to travel, not contagious and pose no food safety risk.
- * Seeking legislation to prevent written warnings appearing on Compliance, Safety and Accountability (CSA) reports.
- * Supporting program and system changes to reduce the number of visits farmers have to make to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office for farm program sign-up.

Illinois received Awards of Excellence in all six program areas, including education and outreach, policy development and implementation, leadership development, member services, public relations and communications, and membership initiatives.

Finally, IFB received the APEX award for increased contributions to the AFBF Foundation. Illinois had a great turnout in Orlando. Our 375 attendees were more than any other state delegation.

www.ccfarmbureau.com

Find out more about the Champaign County Farm Bureau by visiting our website!

- See who your board of directors
- Learn about the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation
- See current Trips and Tours we offer
- Visit the calendar page and never miss another event!
- See what member benefits you have available to you, locally!



**Champaign County
Farm Bureau**

801 N Country Fair Dr
Champaign, IL 61821

Phone: 217-352-5235

www.ccfarmbureau.com



2016 ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU PRIORITIES

State Legislative Priority Issues for 2016

Seek passage of a state budget that provides funding for core agriculture programs and includes strategies for efficiently and effectively providing services.

Maintain tax incentives for agriculture that protect the economic well-being of farmers.

Seek legislation that will maintain reduced property tax assessments on agriculture filter strips so these important tools for nutrient management and the reduction of soil erosion remain economically viable.

Seek legislation amending expedited review procedures for new large, complex utility projects that will better protect landowners' property rights.

Seek legislation allowing the Governor to increase overweight tolerances for divisible loads of agricultural commodities during a declared harvest emergency.

Oppose an increase to Illinois' minimum wage that is believed to be inflationary and would negatively impact Illinois' business climate.

Seek legislation to reduce the current traffic and criminal conviction surcharge paid on truck overweight fines.

- To see more, visit the legislative action center on ilfb.org

The 2016 Marketing Club



Joe Burke, Chairman
CCFB Marketing Club

**Sharpen YOUR Strategy
by Attending These Marketing Club
Opportunities**

Marketing Club for :

March 7: To Be Determined

**March 14: WILL AM 580
Spring Outlook Panel with Todd Gleason**

**Both to be held at Champaign County
Farm Bureau Auditorium**

ON-THE-ROAD SEMINAR

MOTOR VEHICLE REGULATIONS FOR ILLINOIS

Trucking regulations got you scratching your head? Hearing conflicting explanations?

To sort truth from conjecture and fact from rumor come join us at 6:30p.m. on Thursday, February 25th at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium, 801 N. Country Fair Dr. Champaign, IL.

Champaign County Farm Bureau and Vermillion County Farm Bureau are hosting this two-hour seminar that focuses on trucking laws for farmers—both new and well-worn. It'll take a special look at the latest “Covered Farm Vehicle” exemptions and you'll have the chance to ask those trucking questions that you can't seem to find the answers for anywhere else.

A lot of laws have changed in the past 18 months! In fact, just in mid-July the Governor signed legislation adding a new exemption from the CDL. Prior to that we've seen changes to regulations

regarding: the medical card, hours of service limitations, equipment inspection requirements, ATV operation, mobile phone use, out-of-state CDL use, post-trip inspections, and more.

We'll cover those recent changes and some of the more-established but still misunderstood rules, too, such as the USDOT Number, UCR registrations, and driver's license classifications.

Presenting the seminar will be Kevin Rund who has specialized in farm transportation issues for the Illinois Farm Bureau® for more than 30 years. And you'll receive take-home materials covering these topics.

The seminar is free courtesy of your county and state Farm Bureaus®, but advance registration is requested. Please call (217) 352-5235 to reserve your place at the On-the-Road Seminar.

Come join us and get your trucking questions answered.



2016 Retiring Directors

(Left to Right) : Eric Suits, Compromise Township and Board President; Luke Zwilling, YAL President; Scott Kesler, Somer Township; Tim Frick, Raymond Township; Josh Green, Newcomb Township.



Kirk Builta
Executive Director



www.ccfbfoundation.com

Like us on Facebook! facebook.com/CCFBFoundation



Myla Munro
Earth Partners Coordinator

Familiar Faces Retire from Foundation Board of Directors

By: Kirk Builta, CCFB Foundation Executive Director



With a combined 22 years of experience, four members of the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation received their retirement gifts at the Foundation's January meeting of the Board of Directors. Serving two consecutive three-year terms on the Foundation's volunteer Board of Directors, Annette Ackerman, Rick Swearingen and Brian Stark were congratulated for their years of dedi-

cation to the Foundation. Also leaving the Foundation is Jason Crider who has served as an interlocking member of the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors for four years.

Since 2012 Jason Crider has served both the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and the Foundation's board. Appointed by the CCFB president, Jason has been instru-

mental in representing the Foundation's interests on the Farm Bureau board while serving as a liaison on behalf of both entities. While volunteering for the foundation, Jason has served on the Scholarship steering committee and has been active in the Harvest Gala, as well as various other events.

Annette Ackerman, an employee of Horizon Hobby, has been a long-time supporter of the CCFB Foundation. Ackerman calls her recent tour on the Foundation's board a "reconnection" with the Farm Bureau organization after working with the Farm Bureau Young Leaders early in her career. After her son, Vaughn Duitsman, received a scholarship from the Foundation in 2010 she became involved in organization.

Rick Swearingen's commitment to the Foundation began long before his son Matthew received a Scholarship in 2000. For many years Rick has supported the

Foundation through his attendance at various fundraising events and through his professional connections as a long-time employee of Farm Credit Illinois. Rick has long been a strong voice for the Foundation and the future of the industry throughout Champaign County.

Serving as President of the Foundation's Board of Directors since 2013, Brian Stark of The Anderson's Inc. has led many changes in his time of service. The most notable changes were the hiring of Myla Munro as Earth Partners coordinator in the fall of 2014, and Kirk Builta as the Foundation's Executive Director in September 2015. With a new staff in place, and a new vision for the Foundation's future, Brian's work has left the Foundation in a better place. We admire his leadership and the undeniable mark his service has left on the organization.

As these four dedicated members leave the board, big shoes must be filled. We look forward to welcoming new board members at our February meeting.

Strunk's Legacy Remembered Through Endowment

By: Kirk Builta, Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation Executive Director

Dawn and Colleen; and celebrated their 10 grandchildren, all while placing their fingerprints upon the Ag industry in Champaign County, and across the state.

Duane's work earned him respect, and friendship, of nearly everyone he met. He was a graduate of the the Illinois Ag Leadership Program, a leader in the Illinois Pony of the Americas Club, and a loyal Illini fan and proud graduate of Illinois' College of Agriculture(ACES). Duane also made time for organizations such as the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers and enjoyed serving the local community as a member of his church and his local Kiwanis group. As Duane's network grew throughout his career - so did his influence.

After his passing in May of 2014, it was Duane's network of colleagues which fueled the idea of a Scholarship honoring his commitment to the agricultural community. In 2015 the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation presented the first Duane Strunk Memorial Scholarship to Unity High School graduate, and current Parkland College student, Michael Wetherell.

Even after the scholarship was created, Duane's friends and family's desire to honor his legacy continued. In late December 2015, the Duane Strunk Endowment fund was completed. Thanks to his network of friends and

business colleagues; and the generosity of an anonymous donor, a \$25,000 endowment has been funded and there will forever be a permanent marker and constant recognition of Strunk's legacy.

Nancy Strunk says that the support of friends in creating this endowment is something that would blow her husband away. "Duane would be truly honored, and very proud, to support agricultural education. He would have never anticipated anything like this." Mrs. Strunk adds that Duane believed in mentoring young people and lifting up those around him, just as this endowment will do for countless young people to come. "That would make him very happy."

Champaign County Farm Bureau Manager Bradley Uken admits that the honor would have made Strunk laugh, and agrees that recognizing his commitment is fitting. "From a Farm Bureau standpoint, Duane was at his best when he was discussing agriculture issues or property rights with county board members. We're a better organization, and our young people are, and will be, better prepared to impact our industry because of his (Duane's) work."

In the coming months, a stone marker will be placed in Legacy Lane, the gardens which lay in front of the Farm Bureau Building. It is in these gardens where the Farm Bureau remembers Strunk, and others who have made an impact on

the future of our industry by providing endowed scholarships to the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation.

Remember your loved ones by creating an endowment that will honor their commitment to agriculture, and promote their legacy to the next generation. Contact Kirk Builta at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation for more information. (217) 352-5235 or kirk@ccfarmbureau.com

2016 Earth Partners' Coffee Shop Tour Fundraiser with WDWS Newstalk Radio

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, March 15
Champaign
Hosts: Nancy Strunk and Sara Tondini

Tuesday, March 22
Dewey
Hosts: Ryann and Jacob Kesler
Bea Motzer

Wednesday, March 23
Mahomet
Host: Chris Karr

Thursday, March 24
Philo
Host: Dick Miller

Friday, March 25
Gifford
Hosts: Alyson and Eric Suits

Never hesitant to roll up his shirtsleeves and get involved, Duane Strunk is remembered for his work ethic, his love for his family, and his commitment to the agricultural industry in Champaign County, and throughout Illinois. As a Champaign County Farm Bureau member Duane could always be counted on to help educate an elected official on the importance of agriculture in our economy. As a member of a variety of other groups, he could be found mentoring young people who wanted to find their place in the industry. He did this so that future generations of agricultural professionals would live and work in an industry respected by its consumers, and the policy makers who govern it.

Duane and Nancy, his wife of 50 years, raised four children; Derek, Nicole,



Vann Parkin
Country Financial Agency Manager



FINANCIAL

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

Know your partner's financial state before saying, “I do”



Marcia Woolcott
COUNTRY Financial Agency Assistant
352-0012

Tens of thousands of Americans got down on one knee over the Christmas and New Year’s holidays to propose to their significant other. According to a recent Facebook study of engaged people on the social media site, even more men and women will agree to wed next month, on Valentine’s Day.

While most people spend months if not years planning and purchasing for their big day, far fewer engaged couples spend time talking about their finances with their fiancé. A recent COUNTRY Financial Security Index survey found that only 54 percent of those who are engaged are in the know about their partner’s debt. Two-thirds of Americans who are just dating or single say they were unwilling to date or marry someone who has significant debt.

That’s why COUNTRY Financial is encouraging couples to do some talking before saying, “I do.” Doing so could mean the difference between marital bliss, broken hearts and money disputes later on.

“Debt has become a major financial hurdle for many Americans to overcome. The single biggest mistake couples make is they do not sit down together and do any financial planning before getting married,” said Joe Buhrmann, COUNTRY Financial Manager of Financial Security Field Support. “Once couples start getting serious, they should learn as much as they can about their combined financial situation. If they need more help, they should reach out to a financial advisor who can get them on the right track. It’s important, not just for their love life, but also for their financial security.”

Developing a plan early on can help prevent future marital problems and conflicts. Having the talks and reaching agreements before walking down the aisle could even save engaged couples money in the long run. They will have a better idea of where they stand moneywise and what types of insurance coverage they will need and can afford. Taking on these early insights could also get them started on savings for retirement and building their joint financial security before they even tie the knot.

At minimum, couples should develop a basic plan that addresses:

- **Spending:** How much money will you make combined? Will you rent or buy and how much can you afford to spend monthly on housing? What about food, clothing and utilities? After that, determine how much discretionary spending you each can do.
- **Insurance:** Consider what coverage you will need and how much you might pay in insurance premiums.
- **Debt:** Ask yourselves how much combined debt you will have. You’re marrying the love of your life, which also includes their outstanding debt and credit score.
- **Saving:** How much money will you save and how frequently will you save it? What items will you save for? (i.e. a down payment towards a major purchase, vacation, your first child, etc.)
- **Retirement:** Determine how much money would you need to accumulate to live comfortably in your golden years. Will you need to work? What might you get in Social Security benefits?

“Out of all of these topics, insurance is by far the most overlooked part of pre-marriage planning. Younger couples tend to believe they are invincible and have the rest of their lives to save and prepare for retirement,” Buhrmann said. “Couples need to sit with their financial representative and look at their entire financial house, not just their retirement and investments. The foundation of any solid plan is insurance because it protects the assets you accumulate – your home, vehicles, savings – and your income through disability and life insurance.”

Couples can have differing views on monthly spending and saving, but asking and answering these questions early on and forming a budget can help them keep their spending under control and their financial future on track.



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217-328-0023



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Jessie DeHaan
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Aaron Wheeler
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Stan Ochs
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Travis Heath
217-688-2900



Chris Greenwold
217-355-8675



Keith Garrett
217-485-3010



Terry Hill
217-469-9800



Steve Derry
217-352-2655



Chuck Rippy
217-586-5030



Dan Duitsman
217-469-2033



John May
217-352-3341



Nathan Hubbard
217-892-4479



Brian Lowry
217-352-0186



The crop insurance deadline is right around the corner. March 15, 2016! It is time for you to contact Matt Hoose, Illini FS Certified Crop Insurance Specialist. Not much has changed with crop insurance from last year. According to Matt, "Premiums are comparable to last year, but revenue guarantees don't look as good. The spring prices for revenue protection policy will be set in February."

Asian Carp and the Illinois River

It is likely that some newspapers will carry stories on Asian Carp being found farther north in the Illinois River. One finding of larvae and eggs are difficult to explain out of 14 monitoring tests of the river. There will be increased monitoring for Asian Carp in 2016.

Opponents of river commerce would like to close the river connection to the Great Lakes thinking this one action would prevent Asian Carp from getting into Lake Michigan.



The theme for the 2016 GROWMARK Essay Contest is: "What can young people do to ensure the sustainability of agriculture?" The contest is open to all high school FFA members in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin. This is the 23rd year for the program, sponsored by the GROWMARK System and FS member cooperatives, in conjunction with state FFA leaders, to help young people develop their writing skills, learn about current issues affecting agriculture, and understand the unique role of cooperatives.

This year, students will create a working definition of sustainability, and offer suggestions for ways their generation can ensure agriculture remains strong well into the future. Essays should be approximately 500 words, typed and double-spaced. The postmarked entry deadline for all essays is March 1, 2016. Additional program details have been sent to agriculture teachers and is available on the contest page. "Sustainability is an important topic, and there are many definitions out there," said Karen Jones, GROWMARK youth and cooperative education specialist. "I look forward to reading about the ideas students have for keeping our industry viable and growing." Each state's winner earns a \$500 award and the winner's FFA chapter receives a \$300 award. Four runners-up per state each win \$125 awards.

The program is offered each year and many agriculture teachers use it as part of their class curriculum. Past topics have included renewable fuels, biotechnology, and the cooperative principles.

About GROWMARK

GROWMARK is a regional cooperative providing agronomy, energy, facility planning, and logistics products and services, as well as grain marketing and risk management services. The GROWMARK System was founded in 1927 by Farm Bureau members in Illinois and has grown to serve more than 250,000 customers in more than 40 states and Ontario, Canada. GROWMARK owns the FS trademark, which is used by affiliated member cooperatives. More information is available at www.grow-mark.com and www.fssystem.com.

by: Lesley Gooding

Mark Thornsborough is a native of Vermilion County and a 28 year veteran of the Growmark/FS system. Mark was raised on a farm and as a young child was familiar with FS because his uncle was a fuel driver for Vermilion Service, a predecessor company to Illini FS. Mark started his Growmark/FS career at the Vermilion Service Company in plant operations. Over the years Mark has done it all except drive a liquid fuel truck. Mark says, “at this point in my career the opportunity to come to Illini FS is a dream position. I get to come back home and serve the needs of people I know.”

Most recently, Mark was Growmark's Seed Division Manager for the U.S. and Canada. This position allowed Mark to work with anything and everything pertaining to seed including growth, shipping, and product relationships. Mark has had several other positions within the Growmark system which provided him with a great deal of experience from overseeing the Chemical division for the U.S. and Canada to working with Members Cooperatives in the U.S. and Ontario. Mark has been very busy in the few, short weeks he has been on the job. The past few weeks Mark says he has been "seeking to understand" Illini FS. He has been meeting with farmers, employees, has visited all Illini FS locations and "wants to meet needs of the customer/owners and earn their business everyday!" Mark values the FS/Farm Bureau relationship and wants to keep it strong.

In the weeks and months ahead Mark says “one of my goals is for Illini FS to present value in everything we do! We want you to be proud to do business with Illini FS! My vision is for Illini FS to be the premier cooperative in the system. This will be achieved by three things: culture, customer, and team! We will stay the course and we may have to make tweaks along the way! We must meet customer needs all the way down the chain. We are one team of employees with different levels of responsibility! We function as one team and we will achieve the goals of the stockholders and customers! “

What can Illini FS customers expect to see in the year ahead? Illini FS is working hard to develop tools to manage risk when buying inputs; Illini FS will be helping farmers reduce risk and achieve profitability goals; and Illini FS is working on options and working with crop nutrient groups to position tools with the customer/owner group. If you see Mark out and about in the Illini FS territory be sure to stop and say Hi! Mark says he really enjoys “making new relationships and rekindling old relationships. I have been very impressed with the employees of Illini FS. They are dedicated to members and serving their

needs!" When Mark isn't at Illini FS you can find him hunting, working in his yard, and spending time with his family.



Whether you are running a farming operation, a heavy duty trucking fleet, a landscaping company or in charge of a large bus or concrete service operation, the energy division at Illini FS can help your operation go to the next level. Through our full line of refined and renewable fuels, quality lubricants, accessible retail fueling sites, and our dependable propane staff, we have the products and services to make your life easier.

We're all about helping you improve performance and lower operating costs. And while other companies market whatever comes out of the terminal, we formulate our own premium fuels and lubricants to meet and exceed OEM standards.

Our products can help you improve fuel efficiency, extend drain intervals, lower maintenance costs and keep your equipment on the road making you money. Contact your local Energy Specialist to learn more.

Apply now for the FUEL24 Card!

Today, nothing affects your bottom line more than rising fuel costs. Whether you track fuel purchases of your employees or your household, take charge with the FUEL 24 Card!

The FUEL 24 Card eliminates the need for cash or additional credit cards. You'll receive one easy-to-read statement, detailing every purchase. We want to make it easier to concentrate on your business and your household, not your fuel budget.

Contact Illini FS today to get started.

illinifs.com

LOCK IN FUEL PRICES TODAY!

GREAT PRICES =
a great time to contract fuel with Illini FS!

Be Our Valentine at Prime Timers!
February 11 starting at 10 a.m.

**Concerned about
Weather Cancellations?**
- Watch for notices on WCIA
- Tune in WDWS for news
- Call the office at 352-5235



Ken Roellig, Prime Timers Chairman

- 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 2016:

March 10

April 14

May 12



February Prime Timers

The meal provided at Prime Timers will remain at \$8 per plate. We apologize for any confusion this may have been. Please direct your attention to the dates (at left). The dates listed in the January Newsletter are *wrong*. The February Prime Timers program will be Gale Cunningham with WYXY Classic 99.1. Gale is a farm broadcaster with Illini Radio Group. The entertainment will be Logan Kirby, performing rock n' roll favorites and classic country hits! Please RSVP.

**Download the ILFB
Phone APP**



**The CCFB Membership
Benefit List!**

**All you have to do is
SHOW YOUR
FARM BUREAU
MEMBER CARD
at time of purchase
to get the discounts!**

**Need more information?
Call Deidra Ochs at
217-352-5235 or go to:
www.ccfarmbureau.com**

"It has been an interesting six years on the board. We have worked with local congressmen on the farm bill. The county board on windmills, redistricting and waters of the U.S. Our land use committee put together a value of an acre of farmland that other counties are now copying. The committee is also at the front on the nutrient stewardship which may change the way we apply and use fertilizer in the future."

**Scott Kesler, Retiring Director
of Somer Township**

"My largest achievement while serving on the board was being able to see Earth Partners and Foundation be unified. It was neat to see the start of the process, be the fundraiser chair, watch the adjoining and finish out in a leadership role as the CCFB Board President. This experience was an excellent way to connect what we do as farmers to children who are learning where their food comes from" Eric Suits, Retiring Director of Compromise Township and CCFB President

REGISTRATION OPEN

for MARCH 5 CDL PREP COURSE

Champaign County Farm Bureau will host a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) preparation course scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2016, beginning at 7:30 a.m. in the Farm Bureau auditorium. The class will cover basic knowledge of CDL's: brakes, combination vehicles, tankers, doubles and triples, passenger vehicles and hazardous materials.

A CDL is required if you drive any of the following: any combination vehicle with a Gross Combination Weight Rating of 26,001 pounds or more, providing the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of the vehicle being towed is more than 10,000 pounds; any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more or any such vehicle towing an-

pounds; any vehicle designed to transport 15 or more people and any vehicle required by federal law to be placarded while transporting hazardous materials.

Farmers and farm employees are exempt if they do not drive a semi-trailer and are within 150 air miles of their homes.

The cost of the course is \$50 for members and \$55 for non-members. To register for the class, clip the registratoion form below and send it with payment to the Champaign County Farm Bureau, 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Champaign, IL 61821. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS Friday, February 29th, 2016.** There is a minimum of 10 participants to hold the class and a maximum of 50 total participants allowed to attend.

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
FARM BUREAU NEWS**

(USPS 099-840)

801 N. Country Fair Drive, Ste. A, Champaign, IL 61821
Published Monthly by the Champaign County Farm Bureau

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Champaign, IL 61821

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Adam Watson, Crittenden Township.....1st Vice President
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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Manager -- Bradley Uken, FBCM
Assistant Manager -- David Fulton
Communications Director -- Lesley Gooding
Administrative Assistant -- Brenda Wood
Membership Director -- Deidra Ochs
Earth Partners Coordinator -- Myla Munro
Foundation Executive Director -- Kirk Builta

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

Registration Form for CDL Prep Course

Name: _____

Address: _____
street or county road address city zip

Driver's License #: _____

Phone: _____
home/work cell phone

Check the test(s) which needs to be taken:

____ General Knowledge _____ Doubles/Triples

____ Air Brakes _____ Passenger Vehicles

____ Combination Vehicles _____ Hazardous Materials

____ Tankers

Farm Bureau member (\$50) _____ Non Farm Bureau member (\$55) _____

Return to:

Champaign County Farm Bureau
ATTN: Brenda
801 N. Country Fair Dr.
Champaign, IL 61821

Registration Deadline: February 29, 2016

CURRENT BENEFITS

- A & R ELECTRIC
- ALL ABOUT EYES
- ARROW AUTO GLASS
- BARBECK COMMUNICATIONS
- BARD OPTICAL
- BLOSSOM BASKET FLORIST
- C.A.R.'S AUTO DETAILING
- COUNTRY SQUIRE CLEANERS
- CULVER'S
- DRIVEWAY CHIMES, OGDEN
- INTERSTATE BATTERIES
- GREEN PURPOSE
- FASTENAL, CHAMPAIGN
- THE FITNESS CENTER
- FURNITURE WORLD OF RANTOUL
- GARBER'S CLEANERS
- GOOSE CREEK FIREARMS TRAINING
- HOUCHENS HEATING & A/C GROUP
- ILLINI HEARING
- NANCY'S CREATIONS
- NAPA AUTO PARTS
- NICK'S PORTERHOUSE OF PAINTS
- O'REILLY AUTO PARTS
- PARD'S WESTERN SHOP
- RAHN EQUIPMENT COMPANY
- RAINBOW INTERNATIONAL
- RANTOUL GOODYEAR TIRE CENTER
- RANTOUL PIZZA PUB
- REFINERY HEALTH CLUB
- ROSATI'S PIZZA & CATERING
- SAFELY FILED
- SERVICE MASTER
- SHOOTER'S BAR AND GRILL - RANTOUL
- RED WING SHOES
- SIDNEY DAIRY BARN
- SUNSINGER WINERY
- SULLIVAN-PARKHILL AUTOMOTIVE
- TICKETSATWORK.COM
- WYLDEWOOD CELLARS
- ZA'S RESTAURANT

***BENEFITS SUBJECT TO
CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE***

February Events, Registrations and Upcoming Events

Young Ag Leader Beef Raffle

Ticket Price: \$5 each or 5 for \$20

Max of 600 tickets will be sold for TWO chances to win Quarter of a Processed Beef
Drawing to be held Thursday April 7th, 2016

Champaign permit #BL 6460 Need not be present to win. Must be 16 years or older to purchase ticket. The CCFB YAL Executive Committee is ineligible to win.
Winner is responsible for applicable taxes & fees.

~Proceeds benefit the Young Ag Leader Harvest for All Campaign~

Special Thanks to Andy & Katy Allen of AKA Livestock and
Ron Allen of Allen Meats for their generous donations

2016

CCFB TRIPS & TOURS

• March 12 - Effingham Performance Center

Rhonda Vincent & Gene Watson



There is only one voice and there is only one Queen of Bluegrass, Rhonda Vincent. Whether country or bluegrass, her voice is unique, recognizable and flawless. See Vincent and her band the Rage with duet specials from the masterful country stylist, Gene Watson. Watson has been thrilling audiences for more than 50 years. Considered one of the finest pure-country singers of his generation and known as "The Singer's Singer," Watson offers up one of the best traditional country shows in the business and returns to the EPC with his band and "Queen of Bluegrass" Rhonda Vincent.

Cost per person: \$85.00

Deadline: February 10, 2016

June 20-26—The Best of Michigan featuring Mackinac Island

We will depart from the Champaign County Farm Bureau at 6:30 a.m. and head for Mackinac Island. You will arrive in Grand Junction, MI at Stoke's Homestead where you will enjoy lunch and a tour. Our next stop is New Era, MI and Country Dairy for a tour. Day #2 It's off to Acme, MI, home of the Music House Museum for a tour and then a stop in Charlevoix, MI and Castle Farms. Our final stop will be the wonderful, Mackinac Island, MI where you will enjoy a ferry ride over to the Island. During our stay at Mackinac Island we will enjoy a Carriage Tour of the Island and lunch at the Grand hotel. Other highlights of your trip include: tour the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, tour Brush Creek Mill, Frankenmuth where will have a step on guide giving us the highlights and the history of this area, pretzel rolling demonstrations, shopping at Bronner's Christmas Village, visit Fenton, MI and tour the heavenly Scent Herb Farm and Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.



Trip includes : Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Hotel Accommodations, all attractions and 13 meals

Cost per person: Dbl. -\$1,540.00, Single. -\$2100.00, Triple -\$1325.00

Deadline: April 15, 2016



**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
Stephen Alltop, Music Director & Conductor

Second to None

Saturday, March 5, 7:30 pm

Celebrate the farmers of our community, state, and nation with the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra! Presented in partnership with the **Champaign County Farm Bureau**, the concert features stirring and tuneful music from Brahms, Borodin, and American composer Samuel Barber, a restored antique tractor photo opportunity in the Krannert Center Lobby, and more!

For tickets, call (217) 333-6280 or visit cusymphony.org.

Saturday, March 5, 7:30 pm • Krannert Center

Tickets: (217) 333-6280 • cusymphony.org

SALE

Gently used 2008 EBY
24 FT stock/7' tall/7.5 wide
locking nose gate/ full swing
with 1/2 sliding backend
2 hinged partitions
rubber floor mats.

\$17,500

Contact Derek Strunk
217-622-3700

Champaign County Farm Bureau Issue Series

Join us as we address hot button, agriculture issues!
Become more knowledgeable about issues affecting you!
Be ready to answer the call to action requests!

All programs start at 6:30p.m.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

- **2/9/16:** Craig Gundersen,
Professor of Agricultural Strategy—
● **Food Sustainability**

3/22/16: Tamara Nelsen, Illinois
Farm Bureau & Leia Kedem, MS,
RD—**GMOs**



**Issue Series events are open to all CCFB Members.
Attend any or all events!**

Location: CCFB Auditorium, 801 N Country Fair Dr.,
Champaign, IL

RSVP Champaign County Farm Bureau 217-352-5235

Champaign County Farm Bureau Equine Garage Sale

801 N. Country Fair Dr. Champaign, IL – Farm Bureau Auditorium

When: February 27, 2016 Time: 9AM – Noon

This year's tack sale will be by table rental only. No commission will be charged.

- 8 Foot tables are available for \$10 each to be paid with registration
-Space will be available free of charge next to seller's table for seller's own saddle rack(s).
(registration form in February newsletter, online www.ccfbureau.org or see below)
- Sellers are solely responsible for displaying and selling their own merchandise
and must provide their own change, calculator, bags, etc.
- Sellers can start setting up the tables at 7:30 am the day of the event. Items
must be removed by 1 pm the day of the event.
- We strongly encourage sellers to have all items clearly labeled with price and seller's initials.
- Tables must be manned at all times.
- Not Responsible for lost or stolen items
- Any questions, contact David at CCFB office at 352-5235 or david@ccfbureau.org

Equine Garage Sale Table Rental (please make checks payable to CCFB)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Table: Qty _____ (\$10 each) Saddle Rack Space needed: Yes / No (circle one)

