



Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 94, No. 6 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821 June, 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.”

Champaign County Faces of Agriculture

By: Lesley Gooding

Throughout the summer CCFB will be featuring the Faces of Champaign County Agriculture. CCFB will highlight people from the community who have a connection to agriculture. Some of these people will have an obvious connection while others will be connected to agriculture in a way many people don't think about. CCFB is striving to reach consumers and the non-farm public with a positive message about agriculture. Encourage your neighbors and friends to check us out on Facebook, Twitter, and at www.ccfarmbureau.com to learn more about agriculture, and learn a little bit more about people you see out and about in the community.

How is your job/career related to agriculture?

If you grew up in Champaign County, like I did, you touched the business of agriculture every single day. My family has been in farming in Champaign County for five generations. We have raised cattle and dairy cows, grown soybeans and corn. We know this is not a turn-key business. The lessons I learned helping on the farm, detasseling corn, working at DeKalb Pfizer Genetics by Flatville, and working at the grain elevator in Royal during harvest have certainly shaped my career. As the elected Treasurer of the state of Illinois, I use these lessons every day. I am a strong advocate for the Ag industry, and I use the tools of this office to

cant changes to improve the program.

How did you get started in your career/current profession?

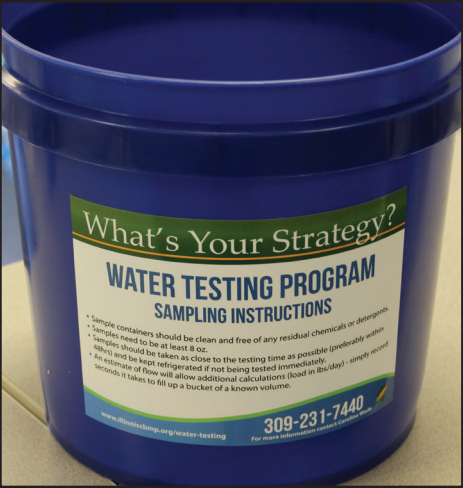
While a junior at Rantoul High School, I was selected to attend Boys State. This summer leadership and citizenship program is sponsored by the American Legion. The program was about a week long, and then Gov. Jim Thompson offered a word of inspiration. It just so happened that he was in the gym when I delivered a speech as part of a scholarship contest. ‘Big Jim’ congratulated me when I won and told me that I could write speeches for him any time. Looking back, I’m sure his offer was a simple gesture of encouragement. I also am sure that it planted in me the seed of public service. Agriculture was a focus during my time on the county board and as a state senator. It remains a focus today in my current role as Treasurer. We need to constantly emphasize that there is more to agriculture than just farming.

What excites you most about being connected to the agriculture industry?

It is an exciting time to be in agriculture. I truly believe we are on the precipice of explosive innovation. We need to look big-picture. Some of what is required simply is bringing a fresh perspective to a traditional idea and modernize it, which is what we did with Ag Invest, our linked deposit program for farming. However, too many people overlook the tremendous space that the University of Illinois plays in advancing agri-business. Too many times I hear of a great advancement coming out of Silicon Valley or out of Boston and invariably the news reports neglect that the genesis of that next, great, advancement started right here at the U of I. That needs to change, and we have a tool to help such innovators stay here in Illinois. The Illinois Growth and Innovation Fund modernizes an existing tool to fund brilliant ideas that need seed money. Although the Legislature authorized such investments years ago, it was not a priority for all of my predecessors. We changed that because we believe this program can help create innovation and jobs right here in Illinois and eliminate the perceived need to relocate to the east or west coast. During the next three years, the fund will invest more than \$220 million in the

Test Your Farm’s Water

By: David Fulton



Above: This is the bucket you would use to calculate your rate of loss.

Jonathon Manuel of Champaign County Soil and Water explained the importance of testing your farm water for nitrates. Best places to draw water samples include tile, ditch or stream water, all being an important part of your conservation efforts on your farm. Sample containers should be clean and free of any chemicals or detergents and at least 8 oz. When taking your sample, it should be as close to the testing time as possible (preferably within 48 hours), but can be refrigerated if not testing immediately. The calculation can be completed online <http://illinoiscbmp.org/Water-Calculator>—an estimated flow will allow additional calculations (load in lbs/day).

The purpose of this testing is to avoid further regulations, which can be avoided by carrying out these simple steps and actions on your own – as listed above. This will not only pertain to a rural audience, but those who have storm water and stream water etc. Manuel said “we are encouraging the farm community to take further action to put end to the pollution issue”. If you don’t know what you are losing, it makes it difficult to implement other practices to help conserve these nitrates for your crops.

Samples that are collected can be turned into the Champaign County Soil and Water, which can be tested directly in the office. The drop off deadline is weekly on Tuesdays before 3:00 PM, “if someone missed our deadline on Tuesdays, they are more than welcome to take the samples to the Vermillion County Soil and Water before 3:00 PM on Thursdays.” said Manuel. These sample reports are kept confidential and are printed on a slip of paper, which is returned to the farmer who submitted the sample. For more information visit: www.ILLINOISCBMP.ORG/WATER-TESTING



Meet Mike Frerichs, State Treasurer of Illinois. Left to Right: Chris Murray, Joe Burke, Mike Frerichs, Eric Suits and Jeff Fisher Board members of 2015 meeting with Treasurer Mike Frerichs in Springfield, IL at the capitol, while meeting with legislators on ag priorities.

help farmers and others in the industry. One tool, the Linked Deposit Program, provides low-interest loans to farmers. Years ago, the tool fell out of favor, which is a shame given its potential. We studied the program, proactively reached out to farmers, bankers, and the Farm Bureau, and made signifi-

We Want To Hear From You!

PLEASE submit your Farm Family Fun Photos to Lesley, to be featured on website and social media pages!

Lesley@ccfarmbureau.com

Continue Faces of Ag on Page 3.....

REGISTRATION OPEN

for JULY 23 CDL PREP COURSE

There will be a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) prep course on Saturday, July 23, 2016 at 7:30 a.m. in the Farm Bureau Auditorium. The class will cover general knowledge of CDLs: air 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 another not in excess of 10,000

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 prep course is \$50 for Farm Bureau members and \$55 for non-members. To register for the class, clip the bottom of this page and send it with the payment to the Farm Bureau, 801 N. Country Fair Dr., Champaign, IL 61821. Registration deadline is Monday, July 18, 2016. There is a minimum of 10 participants to hold the class and a maximum of 50 total participants.

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

Registration Deadline: July 18, 2016

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

"Check Your Calendar!"

June 2016

11	Follow the Farmstead	9AM - 2PM
13	Women's Committee	9:30AM
14	Legislative Committee	7:30AM
16	COME WINE WITH US / BIRKEY'S	5-7 PM
16	Full Board	7PM
18	RIDING FROM THE GROUND UP	9-3 p.m.
20-23	CCFB Summer Ag Camp	



July 2016

4	Independence Day Observance - Office Closed	
11	Marketing Club	6:30 PM
11	Women's Committee	9:00 AM
14	Prime Timers	10:00 AM
18-21	CCFB Summer Ag Camp	



May Recap

President, Chris Murray

May has been a roller coaster, regardless if you lived in Champaign County or went to work in Springfield. May started with a carryover of our April cold and wet weather. Most farmers seemed to be scratching their heads, asking themselves "Did we do the best thing putting our crops in the field?" As the month proceeded we did receive some favorable planting periods which were accompanied by dust flying, no matter where you are in the county. As the month ended, there was great optimism from farmers on the condition of their crop.

There was some quiet talk in Springfield; they were actually in session most of the month. We had a group of board members drive over and talk with our legislators and our adopted legislator, Greg Harris. As the month came to a close, it was Groundhog Day all over again for the state; we have no budget at this point. They have to come to a realization that there needs to be some agreement for the best interest and future of our state.

I hope everyone's June looks promising, as our May ended with adequate moisture, normal temperatures and better market prices. Maybe Springfield can learn something from a farmer - you cannot always control the environment. Work with the cards you are given and make the best decision for the future.

Best of luck,

Chris Murray

Farm Bureau Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge Is On!



Farm Bureau®
Rural
Entrepreneurship
Challenge

Enter by June 30

Entrepreneurs, take note! Ready to take your ag/food business to the next level? Apply today to win up to \$30,000 in start-up capital.

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) is currently taking online applications for its third annual Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge. Entrepreneurs compete for a total of \$145,000 of startup funds. The competition provides an opportunity for Farm Bureau members to showcase ideas and business innovations that benefit rural regions of the United

States. It is the first national rural business competition focused exclusively on innovative entrepreneurs working on food and agriculture businesses. Competitors are invited to submit for-profit business ideas related to food and agriculture at strongruralamerica.com/challenge. You can also find more details on the contest on this website.

All applications, which include a business plan, video pitch, and photo, must be submitted by June 30. You must be at least 18 years old to enter.

MARKETING CLUB

Trying to Figure Out the Markets?

Join Marketing Club every month! 1st Monday at 6:30 PM
(Unless it is a holiday, then held second Monday)

July 11
August 1



idea marketplace with an emphasis on bio-technology. Based on our success with the first round of funding, we expect nothing less in this second round. The key here is that government is not picking winners and losers. We are investing in funds that, in turn, invest in potential. The funds are chosen after relying on exhaustive conversations with investment managers and a board of industry experts. Entrepreneurs also can pitch their ideas. There is a new horizon in the Ag industry and the Illinois Growth and Innovation Fund wants to be part of it.

What is your favorite memory of rural life and growing up in a small town? I have many memories of growing up in a small town and around the farm, but the sweetest is of sweet corn. Among the things my Grandfather did to make a living was to grow corn and soybeans. Like many farmers, he would set aside a few rows for sweet corn. We would gather the ears right off the stalk, shuck them outside and then bring them inside to boil. We would let the ears cool just enough and then roll one on a stick of butter. Sprinkle on some salt and just accept that some of the butter will roll onto your chin. Growing up seemed much easier then.

What is your favorite meal? Ribeye, medium rare. Baked potato with butter and sour cream. More butter for the sweet corn. A side salad to make it seem healthy.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work, free time activities, hobbies, and interests? I spend as much time as I can with my young daughter, Ella. I love to read with her and I love it when she reads to me. Sometimes we read together, she one chapter and I the next. Other times, she might start a book, become sleepy, and I will finish reading it to her. As with most young girls, she also enjoys board games and is just getting interested in sports such as softball. It is incredible to see her process information and it makes me wonder what my parents thought of me at that age.

Tellusaboutyourfamilyandbackground. I often say that I came from a perfect mix of rural life. My Dad grew up on a farm that at different times raised cattle and dairy cows. My Mom spent some of her childhood living above a slaughterhouse that her family owned as part of a meat locker business. They remain humble and taught my brothers and me the benefits of hard work, honesty, and standing straight. We did not have much growing up, but we were not missing a lot, either. We learned the difference between a need and a want, even if we disagreed with the decision. In that sense, there were a lot of families who followed the same path.

If you could have supper with one or two famous living individuals, who would they be? I always scratch my head at this question. I suppose it is intended to offer some insight into a person, but it always gives me pause because my list frequently changes. Right now, because I am focused a lot on investing, I would have to say Warren Buffett, and because it is baseball season, and the Cubs

are off to such a great start, I would also like to talk with Joe Maddon.

What change or challenge do you see on the horizon that will impact agriculture the most in the near future? Science and how consumers react to it. Agriculture is on the precipice of great change. The change will include identifying the next breakthrough, financing it, and convincing consumers that it is healthy. A robust debate about farming practices rages on because communication channels have expanded greatly. The internet has turned thoughtful debate on its head and created a microphone where each voice erroneously is given the same weight and authority. Our ability to evaluate competing ideas and separate fact from hope will be essential to manage outcomes that will touch the family farm as heavily as the corporate marketer.

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Illinois Agriculture Background

- TPP is an agreement between the U.S. and 11 Asian-Pacific Region nations accounting for 40% of the world’s economy and \$36 trillion of the world’s GDP.
- The TPP will boost demand for U.S. agri-food products among the 500 million consumers in the 11 Asian-Pacific partner nations in the agreement.
- With some of the world’s fastest growing economies and populations, this dynamic region offers key access to other expanding Asian nations.
- Our competitors, including the EU, are increasingly active in the region. The TPP will help improve the competitiveness of U.S. farmers while improving strategic partnerships.

- ### TPP and Agriculture
- Partners in the TPP currently import nearly 42% of all U.S. agricultural exports.
 - U.S. agricultural exports to TPP nations totals around \$63 billion.
 - Foreign taxes/tariffs on U.S. agricultural exports to some TPP partners are very high. TPP requires our partners to reduce tariffs on U.S. agricultural and other exports.
 - TPP partners also have non-tariff barriers not based on science that restrict our market opportunities – the TPP will eliminate those.

- ### Generally, the TPP agreement signed in February 2016:
- Eliminates tariffs on a majority of U.S. exports of agri-food products.
 - Provides new market access through tariff reductions or preferential quotas.
 - Requires TPP countries to eliminate all agricultural export subsidies.
 - Discourages countries from imposing export restrictions on agri-food products as a means of protecting their domestic market from changes in the world market.
 - Ensures food safety, animal health and plant health measures are developed and implemented transparently and in a science-based manner based on risk.
 - Improves transparency in state

traders of ag products to avoid trade distortion.

- ### TPP and Illinois Agriculture
- 33% of Illinois farmer income is attributable to agricultural exports.
 - Ag exports help support rural communities and promote job growth in Illinois and the U.S.
 - Illinois agri-food exports to TPP nations are \$3.9 billion annually supporting 29,000 jobs.
 - When fully implemented, TPP will add
 - o \$300 million/year to Illinois agricultural cash receipts
 - o \$127 million/year in net agricultural exports from Illinois
 - The TPP will help expand existing trade between Illinois and 6 current FTA partners, which will support economic and job growth in Illinois.
 - Reduced tariffs on pork and beef and increased access for dairy and other products will enhance Illinois sales of those products (as well as of corn and soybeans) to the region.
 - Market access for wheat will be improved and existing tariffs on products containing processed wheat (like cookies and crackers) will be eliminated.

Sources: American Farm Bureau Federation, Business Roundtable, Illinois Farm Bureau, USDA and USTR.

Summer Farm Tour Brings Fun, Education to Families

By: Terri Reifsteck



Champaign County— Six local farms and facilities will open their doors to the community during the second annual Follow the Farmstead presented by Visit Champaign County and the Champaign County Farm Bureau.

Follow the Farmstead aims to connect families to farmers. In its second year, the event will feature open houses at six farms and facilities in and around Urbana. Held Saturday, June 11, from 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., the event features organic practices and the harvesting of invasive species, the latest in farming equipment and technology, land preservation and new research.

“We are well known for our agriculture that surrounds us, but we often aren’t able to engage in the process,” explains Terri Reifsteck, Vice President of Marketing at Visit Champaign County. “Follow the Farmstead provides that opportunity for families and individuals to ask questions and really connect with local agriculture.”

As part of its mission to educate, the Champaign County Farm Bureau co-sponsors the event. “Agriculture is an

Illinois farmers reach consumers online, in person

By: Linda Olson

Social media advertising and sponsored posts continued to pay dividends for Illinois Farm Families® during the month of April. Social media advertising efforts drove more than 3,500 people to City Mom Ellen Krasin’s blog post, “What I Witnessed on an Illinois Farm,” on www.WatchUsGrow.org. Additionally, sponsored social media posts on the Chicago Parent Facebook page reached more than 50,000 people and resulted in more than 650 visits to www.WatchUsGrow.org. Illinois Farm Families also added a new social medium called Periscope to its arsenal in April. Additional funding from the Illinois Corn Marketing Board introduced the new social medium and allowed farmer, Justin Durdan, and WGN Radio host, Patti Vasquez, to stream live video from the cab of Durdan’s tractor while he planted corn and answered questions from viewers. Also online, a Twitter chat, sponsored by Illinois Farm Families, reached more than 1 million Twitter users and engaged with 221 individuals, including chefs, foodies and dieticians.

In person, Illinois Farm Families welcomed more than 400 foodies to #FoodieChats’ Sensory Overload event in Chicago. Foodies stopped by to watch a chalk artist, touch corn and soybean seeds, try food samples, and ask local farmers questions.

industry that is constantly changing and it is often difficult for consumers to keep up,” states Brad Uken, Manager at the Champaign County Farm Bureau. “We’re thrilled to give our farmers the opportunity to engage with the community and have a voice in the industry that is their livelihood.”

Participating farms and facilities include: Agribile showcasing their mobile technology; Autumn Berry Inspired and the Green Island Farm Collective showcasing new uses for invasive species and sustainable practices; Barnhart Prairie Preserve showcasing prairie restoration; Birkey’s Farm Store with the latest in farming equipment; Pheasant Ridge Farms with tours of their Christmas Tree farm as well as organic practices; and the University of Illinois Beef Farm discussing animal science and research.

Guests are encouraged to visit farms at any time during 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., however, tours will end at noon for Birkey’s Farm Store, and guided tours will be held at the University of Illinois Beef Farm on the hour at 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00 a.m. as well as 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be available for purchase at Agribile from 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

The event is free and requires no tickets. Maps for the event can be picked up at Visit Champaign County at 108 S. Neil St., Champaign or downloaded online at visitchampaigncounty.org/followthefarmstead.

For more information, contact Terri Reifsteck at 217-351-4133 or terrir@visitchampaigncounty.org



Kirk Bulta
Executive Director



Myla Munro
Earth Partners Coordinator

www.ccfbfoundation.com

Like us on Facebook! facebook.com/CCFBFoundation

Foundation Celebrates 30th Anniversary with New Look

By: Kirk Bulta

For three decades, the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation has been living its mission of providing educational opportunities that impact the future of the food and agricultural industry. Of course this industry has seen great changes throughout the past thirty years; as our surroundings change the Foundation has done its best to adapt in order to support agriculture.

In 1986 our first scholarship was awarded to an outstanding young scholar in hopes of defraying the cost of educational expenses. Today, as the price of education continues to rise the Foundation does its best to provide support to as many students as possible.

From one scholarship in 1986, the Foundation has grown to offer over 50 scholarships to deserving students through the upcoming 2016-2017 academic year. It is our hope that with this support our students will go on to impact the agricultural community. The leader of the next big agricultural movement might just be a Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholar!

As times changed, the Foundation has adapted to meet the needs of the Champaign County community. As more and more students grew up without a connection to the farm and those who grow their food; there was a need for Agricultural Literacy programming. In June of 1983 the Earth Partners committee was established as an agricultural literacy clearinghouse supported by the Foundation. Developed in cooperation with various community and industry partners, the Earth Partners program has grown to reach nearly 9,000 students annually through classroom visits, after school programs, 4-H and FFA partnerships and even adult and consumer education programs.

Today, as we begin to celebrate our thirtieth anniversary, we look to the future ready to tackle the next shift in our industry. One such shift is the increased technology which is a big part of agriculture and our everyday lives.

As we look to embrace the growing use of technology, Farm Bureau Foundation found itself look-

ing for a new identity in the digital age. Looking to recreate our presence on the web, the Foundation Board of Directors and staff hired local firm, ThirdSide, Inc. to help us recreate our image and establish a stronger web presence.

After working with the graphic designers and web developers at ThirdSide we're excited to unveil our new look for our 30th Anniversary! Our new image brings a modern feel to our traditional agricultural values.

Three corn stalks in various stages of growth represent the progress of our Foundation, and our industry, as well as symbolize the growth and educational processes. Our colors "leaf" green and "maize" yellow were selected as distinct representatives of the agricultural industry and show our solid roots in the agricultural community and our dedication to its bright future.

Our new image wouldn't be complete without a total rebuilding of our web presence. For years our online home has been found at www.ccfb-foundation.com and that's where you'll find more of our new look. This new



website, also fashioned by ThirdSide, will allow us greater resources in providing timely news and information about the Farm Bureau Foundation.

This new website will give us more flexibility in providing resources to our Earth Partners cooperating teachers and will give us the ability to develop online event registration, scholarship applications and more. These advances will help us to expand upon our mission and helps us to reach a diverse group of constituents.

In addition to our website, social media has been an important method of communication. Our facebook page www.facebook.com/CCFBFoundation and twitter account [@CCFB_Foundation](https://twitter.com/CCFB_Foundation) have helped us to reach out to our communities in ways we never could have just a few years ago.

In total, we hope that our new image and digital presence will allow us to impact a wider audience. These tools will allow us to continue our mission while preparing the Foundation to meet any challenge, and adapt to change, which may come before us in the future.

Reflecting on the Past



Circa 2002 - 2010



CCFB FOUNDATION

2010 - 2016

The Wealth of Our Community

By: Myla Munro

Join the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation's Earth Partners Ag Literacy Program this summer at Parkland College as we explore local agricultural resources and how they affect food production. This four-part course, The Wealth of Our Community, has been designed to educate consumers about agriculture with such topics as the local foods initiative, the quickly advancing technology practices used in modern production, and the vast natural resources found out your back door.

Speakers will include, Dan Schafer of the Illinois Council on Best Management Practices. Dan will

be sharing with the group information about soil, water and nutrients. Dave Shenaut of Monsanto Co. and Parkland College student, Casey Hettinger will discuss the progression of agricultural technologies and how machinery has evolved in the last decade. Illinois Farm Bureau's Jim Fraley is set to talk with class participants about animal agriculture and how meat and milk are responsibly raised. On the fourth and final night, we will host a panel of local foods experts, as well as a dietician that will discuss the many "buzz words" that are being used in the marketplace today. The course will conclude

with a day-long field trip that showcases local agribusinesses, farm tours and also includes lunch at Prairie Fruits Farm and Creamery!

The Wealth of Our Community will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from July 12th through July 21st. Classroom sessions run from 7:00p.m. to 8:30pm. The Friday fieldtrip will be held on Friday, July 22nd from 9am – 4pm. Transportation from Parkland College will be provided for the field trip.

Enroll in the course for only \$49. Registration includes lunch at Prairie Fruits Farms. As an extra incentive, teachers that enroll and complete the full

course can receive 10.75 professional development clock hours (PDCH).

Learn more about how to register at <http://www.parkland.edu/communityed> or access the Parkland College Community Education Discover course catalog at: <http://www2.parkland.edu/schedule/CEsu2016.html>.





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AMERICANS FEAR RETIREMENT

Most Americans feel unprepared for their golden years

Uncertainty looms over working Americans who fear they won't be able to realize a comfortable retirement. Eighty-one percent of those in the workforce are worried about their level of preparedness – still nearly two-thirds (67 percent) of current retirees are satisfied with their retirement, according to the latest COUNTRY Financial Security Index.

"We found that money issues are driving dissatisfaction in retirement among those Americans who report being unhappy," says Joe Buhrmann, manager of financial security at COUNTRY Financial. "Many retirees underestimate the cost of their basic living expenses in retirement, and as a consequence spend more of their nest egg just to get by. We also see that some current retirees do not have enough to afford the things they want to do in retirement."

Reality overshadows retirement daydreams

American workers are extremely worried about their savings being adequate to support them in retirement and fear:

1. **Running out of money completely**
2. **Not having the money to pay for the things they want to do**
3. **Not being able to afford medical and or long-term care expenses**

Their uncertainties are fueled by underlying worries that they might not be on the path to their dream retirement – or that their path could easily be derailed. While 4 in 10 say that not saving enough will be what sets them back the most, 28 percent worry about the loss of an income earner and 18 percent live in fear of another economic recession. "No one can predict future financial obstacles, but having a well-rounded plan can offer workers peace of mind that they are on track for retirement," says Buhrmann. "It's important to save and invest to build your nest egg, but workers should also take steps to manage risks and protect what they have in order to have a comprehensive financial plan for retirement."

Defining (and achieving) the dream retirement

The things most Americans look forward to in retirement include having the ability to travel more, working less and having more time to spend with loved ones. "Of those who aren't living their dream retirement, 57 percent say it's because they don't have enough money for the things they would like to do," Buhrmann says. "For those approaching retirement, it's important to understand your living expenses first to make sure you are also saving enough to afford additional costs, such as travel." Want to discover more interesting findings from the COUNTRY Financial Security Index survey? Follow us on Twitter @helloCOUNTRY.

Did you Know?

Nearly 90 Percent of Americans Believe the Average Wedding Costs Too Much

Celebrating a wedding is an exciting time for couples and their families; however, anticipating and planning for the momentous occasion can also lead to significant bills. In 2015, the national average cost of a wedding was just under \$30,000, which, according to the latest COUNTRY Financial Security Index, a vast majority of Americans (86 percent) feel is too much to spend.



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**MARK THORNSBROUGH,
GENERAL MANAGER**

New Interns at Illini FS

By: Lesley Gooding



Left to Right: Zack Smith, Craig Bloemker, Dylan Price

Illini FS has some new faces around the office this summer. Three GROWMARK interns will be learning how Illini FS operates and what it takes to be part of the Illini FS Team. The interns are Dylan Price and Zack Smith, based out of the Dewey location and Craig Bloemker, working out of the Illini FS Kemp location.

Matt Hoose, Illini FS Crop Insurance Specialist, will be working with these three young men, providing them with opportunities to see Illini FS as a whole and allowing them to explore different career opportunities. Throughout the summer several different aspects of Illini FS will be explored including energy, fuel, construction, agronomy, precision farming, and crop.

As of May 23, the interns were entering their second week of their summer internships. The first week included orientation, visiting all the Illini FS locations, safety training, and touring the fertilizer terminal in Casey, IL. The second week was kicking off with scouting fields and a visit from the IT department to receive laptops.

All the interns are very interested in crop scouting. Matt Hoose says he is taking them out early and “there is not much to see yet. We will be concentrating on stand counts in corn, insect damage, and different weed pressures.” The interns will also have the opportunity to work with Dr. Howard Brown and the N-Watch program. Dr. Brown has some great things going on and the interns will be able to carefully study, under Dr. Brown’s leadership, the importance of N-Watch.

Get to know the interns...

Craig Bloemker

Background? Craig Bloemker is originally from Trilla, IL, attended Cumberland High School and Parkland College. Craig’s plans for fall 2016 are a little bit up in the air, but he plans to transfer to either Illinois State University or the University of Illinois. His major is Agronomy/Crop Science. **How did you become interested in agriculture?** Craig’s interest in agriculture started out when one of his close friends needed help on the farm. He is looking forward to

becoming familiar with Illini FS & GROWMARK, how it all works, and is really interested in crop scouting. **What excites you about agriculture?** Precision Technology & automation **What worries you about the future of agriculture?** The big disconnect between agriculture and consumers. We need to continue to educate consumers about GMO’s.

Zack Smith

Background? Zack Smith is from Champaign, IL, and attended The High School of Saint Thomas Moore. He attended Parkland College and is transferring to Illinois State University in the fall to major in agronomy management. **How did you become interested in agriculture?** Zack’s interest in agriculture took hold at a young age just being around agriculture. He is looking forward to crop scouting, learning more about seed and finance. **What excites you about agriculture?** Precision Technology & automation **What worries you about the future of agriculture?** The growing population and less land to grow food.

Dylan Price

Background? Dylan Price grew up in Milford, IL. He attended Milford High School and is currently a senior at Illinois State University, slated to graduate this December. Dylan is majoring in Agronomy Management/Ag Business. **How did you become interested in agriculture?** Dylan’s love for agriculture started with his dad, an agriculture teacher, and both sides of his family have farms. He is excited to meet other Illini FS employees, have networking opportunities, crop scouting and interacting with farmers. **What excites you about agriculture?** The technology changes over the past ten years and the challenges we face to feed the world. **What worries you about the future of agriculture?** Urban expansion, growing crops to feed the world and future generations.

A little bit more about GROWMARK internships...

Craig & Zack are interns with

GROWMARK’S Community College intern program. This program allows a currently enrolled freshman or sophomore the opportunity to explore agriculture. This is a ten week internship with Illini FS. Growmark.com touts this opportunity as one that will allow interns to “gain hands on experience in a retail agri-business environment. Our interns get exposure to industry and personal development training, professional networking opportunities, and practical experience. You will earn while you learn in the following areas: custom application, facility/equipment maintenance and repair, inventory control, customer service, and much more. You’ll have the ability to make a direct impact at a farmer-owned cooperative.” Dylan Price is one of sixty-one college students spending the summer as a GROWMARK intern exploring agricultural career opportunities. According to growmark.com the internship program is in its 57th year. GROWMARK places interns at FS member cooperatives in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Ontario, Canada; as well as GROWMARK FS, MID-CO COMMODITIES, and the GROWMARK corporate office in Bloomington, Illinois. The interns are exposed to accounting, marketing, communications, and product and service-related activities.

The group attended an orientation program at the GROWMARK corporate office on Monday, May 16 and will reconvene in June for an agribusiness tour. Each intern will complete a special project and deliver a presentation on that project in August. "We are excited to celebrate the 57th anniversary of the GROWMARK internship program," said Amie Hasselbring, GROWMARK university relations manager. "The program continues to be a key component in identifying and retaining top talent into the GROWMARK System. Students engage with industry professionals on important projects and have the opportunity to clarify career goals, while we get exposed to the most talented university students," she added. The GROWMARK internship program began in 1959 with three interns. Since then, over 1,000 students have been involved in the program.

2015 Intern Update...

Wondering what happened to last year’s interns Tanna Petersak & Avery Stoddard? Tanna is a sales trainee with Ag Reliant and Avery is still attending school.

**Any plant on the bee hive \$25%
off during the month of June.**

**Upcoming Events at FS Farmtown, 1509 E
University Ave, Urbana, 217-384-8308**

Saturday, June 11

Pond Seminar & Koi Sale

Seminar begins at 10 a.m. Learn all about pond fish care and get your questions answered. The annual Koi Fish Sale will follow at 12 p.m. Plus get 15% off all pond products and supplies.

Saturday, June 18

Blooms & Butterflies

10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Speaker, Leslie Deem from the U of I Pollinatorium plus lots of flowers and fun.

Sunday, June 19

Father's Day Sale

25% off all Statuary & Garden Tools.

July 9 - July 10

Parade of Ponds

Buy your pond walk tickets at Farmtown and get a coupon for 10% off all annual, perennial and nursery items purchased.

Riding from the Ground Up!

Sponsored by: **The Champaign County Farm Bureau Equine Committee**

A Horsemanship Clinic featuring instruction by:

Jamie Gerdes Stierwalt



Saturday, June 18

9AM to 3PM

Jerry and Deb Heinz Farm

471 CR 800 E – Tolono, Illinois

(follow signs from Rt 45 just south of Tolono on Sadorus Rd)

- 9AM – Noon: Groundwork
- Noon: "How to make a connection with your horse"
- 1:30PM – 3PM: Mounted Work
- Registration Deadline: June 10
- Limited to 20 riders - All observers are welcome!
- Must provide your OWN horse.
- Event WILL be held rain or shine
- *No Dogs or Smoking Allowed* No Stallions*
- ASTM/SEI approved helmets are REQUIRED
- Proof of negative Coggins within 1 year REQUIRED
- \$30 for general participants and \$15 for 4-H/Pony Club members OR youth 12 yrs and younger
- Limited number of stalls available on a first come, first serve basis.
- Questions? Call 352-5235 or e-mail david@ccfarmbureau.com

A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED TO THOSE WHO HAVE PRE-REGISTERED



Board Members Visit Capitol

In May we were able to make a visit to the capitol to visit with Illinois Legislators on Illinois Farm Bureau's priorities. (from left to right): David Fulton, Brad Uken, Senator Chapin Rose, Andy Hughes, Paul Berbaum, Gerald Henry, and Jeff Fisher. It was a great day and we were told how important our visits were to help make an impact and educate on issues important to farmers.



Check out our newly finished parking lot! We hope you enjoy the "smooth ride" when you come to the office, with freshly painted lines and a new layer of asphalt, our resurfaced lot is outstanding!

Looking for Volunteers!!

Champaign County Farm Bureau will once again be hosting the Summer Ag Camp and we need your help! We are currently looking for volunteers to present on subject areas: corn, soybeans, wheat, pumpkins, apples, machinery and volunteers to bring livestock. If this interests you, please call David Fulton at 352-5235 to be signed up, or login and sign up using:

<http://vols.pt/GcTBzC>

Pictures from Last Year



The Wealth of Our Community

Parkland College, PC-W115

Tuesdays and Thursdays

July 12-21 • 7-8:30 p.m.

& Friday, July 22 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.



Champaign County Farm Bureau Tractor Drive & Family Picnic

Parkland Community College, Champaign IL

**Saturday,
August 27, 2016**

Schedule of Events

10 a.m. Tractor Drive leaves Champaign County Fair Grounds

11 a.m. Tractors arrive at Parkland College

11 a.m.—1 p.m. Family Picnic at

Tony Noel Center—Parkland College

1 p.m. Tractor Drive leaves picnic and travels to Champaign County Fair Grounds



FUN for the entire family! Tractors of all makes and models will travel to Parkland College and stop for a family picnic. Tractors will be on display, lunch will be served, and there will be events for everyone to enjoy!

Tractors will travel on Bradley Avenue between the Champaign County Fairgrounds and Parkland College.

Tractor Drive Registration

\$20 by August 17/\$25 after Deadline

Includes CCFB Commemorative Microfiber Towel/1 Lunch Ticket

Family Picnic Lunch Tickets

Adults \$8
Children 12 & under \$5

Advance purchase required
by August 17, 2016

More info contact CCFB
217-352-5235

Champaign County Farm Bureau

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