

# CCFB Impacts Local Community



Sunflower Celebration

Since the very beginning, the Champaign County Farm Bureau has been dedicated to enhancing the livelihoods of farmers and fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of agriculture within the Champaign County community. Through a diverse range of programs and initiatives, the CCFB plays a pivotal role in bridging the gap between rural and urban communities, promoting profitable and sustainable farming practices, and advocating for the interests of local farmers and the rural communities of Champaign County.

One of the CCFB’s primary functions is to provide valuable resources and support to Champaign County farmers, in order to help them successfully navigate the complexities of modern agriculture. Educational workshops on issues like cover crops, farm succession planning, and the grain markets are hallmarks of the CCFB.

The Champaign County Farm Bureau and the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation serve as vital link between farmers and consumers, fostering a deeper understanding of where food comes from and the hard work that goes into its production. Through our presence at events like the Sunflower Celebration at Clearview

Farms, the FarmDocs medical student farm tours, and through CCFB Foundation initiatives like Ag in the Classroom, the CCFB is committed to educating consumers on where their food comes from. The Ag in the Classroom program saw over 25,000 Champaign County students in the 2022-2023 and is on track to see a record number of students this year! These efforts would not be possible without the support of you, our CCFB members.

In addition to its efforts in education and outreach, the Champaign County Farm Bureau is also actively involved in advocating for policies that benefit local farmers and the broader agricultural industry. The CCFB amplifies our members voices and helps them to be heard at the local, state, and national level. Whether it’s educating local elected officials about the importance of agriculture in Champaign County, working with state and federal officials on infrastructure issues, or addressing key issues such as raising the state inheritance tax, the Champaign County Farm Bureau and its larger organizations (Illinois Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation) tirelessly champion the interests of its members at local, state, and national levels.

Moreover, the CCFB recognizes the importance of fostering the next generation of agricultural leaders. Through scholarships, internships, and youth development programs provided by the CCFB Foundation, it provides opportunities for young people to explore careers in agriculture and develop the skills necessary to succeed in the industry. The CCFB Foundation is the premier county farm bureau foundation in the state of Illinois and it is thanks to the support from members like you that the future of agriculture in Champaign County is thriving.

The Champaign County Farm Bureau is more than just another non-profit organization—it’s an organization dedicated to serving you, the members of the CCFB. This organization is your organization. Committees including: governmental affairs, marketing, communications, the women’s committee, and the prime timers are here to serve you. If you have an idea for a program or initiative that you think the CCFB should be pursuing, please contact the CCFB office at 217-352-5235 or email [lucas@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:lucas@ccfarmbureau.com).



Agriculture in the Classroom



FarmDocs

## At Longview, Master Farming is in our DNA!



Chris with John Albin, 1970 Master Farmer Award Winner & Founder of Longview Capital Corporation



[longviewcap.com](http://longviewcap.com)



Chris Hausman  
Director of Longview Capital Corporation, Longview Bank & Longview Community Bank

*A true leader and passionate executive who always puts God, family, friends and farming first.*



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# April Report



## President, Doug Downs

By the time this message gets to you all, lawn mowers will be buzzing and area farmers will anxiously anticipate the perfect planting window. Every year I hope for a wide and warm window. Except for a few, it's usually colder than I like, with a few pounding rains, filled with terrible replant decisions to make, maybe a deer antler in a tire, and always seems to be anything but perfect weather. I would encourage everyone to be patient for optimal planting conditions. It's easy for me to say, hard to follow, and I'll probably be the first to break my own advice. But this year, not an ounce of yield should be sacrificed by planting into less than ideal conditions. Margins are thin with some negative at this point. Hopefully we can all out yield this storm. I wish you the best as what I consider to be the most stressful time of the year quickly approaches.

"Retail is ridiculous and wholesale is horrifying" is a phrase that caught my attention on a radio market show the other day. Of course farmers buy most everything at retail and sell at wholesale. Looking forward, this may be a difficult time we are approaching. I'm skeptical we will see much change in our input prices to the downside and it's likely to take a few years for other things like machinery prices to soften. Maybe they never will. The point is, it's probably past time to take a hard look at our efficiencies and inefficiencies if you haven't lately. Although not easy, maybe ask where are better market opportunities? Where are less expensive inputs? Should we eliminate that chisel plow pass this fall? A few phone calls may make you a lot of basis improvement if you have bins full of last year's crops. Although not easy, it's time to step out of the comfort zone.

I wish you all good weather and a safe and productive planting season.

Sincerely,  
Doug Downs

## Spring Fling 2024

Please make your reservation at the Champaign County Farm Bureau office (217-352-5235) and pay by cash, check or credit card by April 10th. A full lunch will be served (choice of chicken or pork entree) by Holly's Country Kitchen, Monticello, IL. Boutiques include Cindy Cargo, a J. Bloom jewelry designer, and Kinze Ehmen from Chic 'n Threads. Chico's will be displaying spring fashions and will extend discounts. Since when can you shop, have lunch with friends, and hear about women's basketball in one easy stop? This event is open to all women of the Farm Bureau and their invited friends until capacity is reached. Register today!

## ★★★★★ E-NEWSLETTER ★★★★★

### WE HAVE BEGUN USING THE E-NEWSLETTER TO RELAY INFORMATION TO VOTING MEMBERS

The E-Newsletter was put together to provide more accurate and up to date information about Champaign County Farm Bureau Events and Activities. It is another place where we like to share information that we feel members need to know about. If you are not getting them, please reach out to Champaign County Farm Bureau Office and make sure that we have you up to date email on file.



Keep an eye out for an email from [ccfb@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:ccfb@ccfarmbureau.com) with our Monday Morning Updates

## Prime Timers Meeting

April 11, 2024

*Speaker: Dustin Heuerman, Champaign County Sheriff*

*Entertainment: Dan Davis*

*\$8 per person/Fried Chicken Buffet*

*\*No Walk-Ins\**

**\*Call to reserve your spot by April 8\***

*CCFB Office - 217-352-5235*

## CCFB Calendar of Events April 2024

<i>April 8th</i>	<i>Women's Committee</i>	<i>9:30 am</i>
<i>April 11th</i>	<i>Prime Timers</i>	<i>10 am</i>
<i>April 17th</i>	<i>Women's Committee Spring Fling</i>	<i>9:30 am</i>
<i>April 18th</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>6:30 pm</i>
<i>April 23</i>	<i>Governmental Affairs</i>	<i>7:30 am</i>

## Women's Committee

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

### Calendar of Events

- *April 8 at 9:30 a.m. - General Meeting; Social Activities, Lunch at Bunny's in Urbana*
- *April 9 at 10 a.m. - Flower Arranging at Rural Rose, Fisher, IL: Cost \$15.00. Sign up and pay at FB Office*
- *April 17th at 9:30 a.m. - Spring Fling - See featured article*
- *April 29 at 9 a.m. - Sewing at Farm Bureau Auditorium*

## Marketing Meeting

April 2nd @ 6:00PM

CCFB Auditorium



Join **Greg Johnson** from TGM and **Randall Bolen** from Illinois Commodities Corporation for an informative round table style grain marketing meeting where these experts will provide insights, strategies, and updates on navigating the grain market.

RSVP to [lucas@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:lucas@ccfarmbureau.com) or call the office at 217-352-5235



# 2024 CCFB Trip Dates, Deadlines & Information

Questions? Call the Champaign County Farm Bureau at 217-352-5235.

**\Thursday, June 20, 2024 (Matinee)**

### **Honky Tonk Angels**

#### **The Little Theatre On The Square – Sullivan, IL**

When three gutsy gals from different backgrounds take charge of their lives, they decide to follow their honky tonk dreams to the city of Nashville. Combining 30 classic country tunes (including “Stand By Your Man,” “9 to 5,” “Harper Valley PTA” and more!) The Honky Tonk Angels is a hilarious, foot-stomping good time from the creator of Always....Patsy Cline.



Lunch will be at Yoder’s and is NOT included in the price..

Price Per Person: \$95

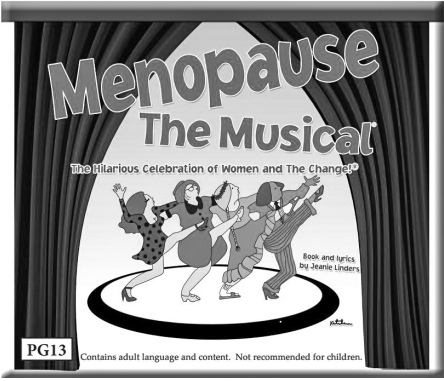
Deadline to Register or cancel reservation: May 17

**Wednesday, August 14, 2024 (Matinee)**

### **Menopause The Musical**

#### **CIRCA ’21 Dinner Playhouse – Rock Island, IL**

This funny and inspiring musical parody finds the humor in a woman’s “change of life.” Four women of a certain age meet by chance at a department store lingerie sale, and bond over their woeful hot flashes, forgetfulness, mood swings, wrinkles, night sweats, chocolate binges, and more! These diverse women create a sisterhood as they realize that menopause is a shared experience that doesn’t have to be suffered in silence. This hilarious musical parody set to classic tunes from the ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s will have you cheering and dancing in the aisles!



Price Per Person: \$120

Deadline to Register or cancel reservation: July 10



**Thursday, September 26, 2024 (Matinee)**

### **Million Dollar Quartet**

#### **Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre – Indianapolis, IN**

On December 4, 1956, an extraordinary twist of fate brought Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley together at Sun Records in Memphis for what would be one of the greatest jam sessions ever. Million Dollar Quartet bring that legendary December night to life featuring an incredible score performed live onstage, including: “Blue Suede Shoes”, “Fever”, “Walk the Line”, “Sixteen Tons”, “Who Do You Love”, “That’s All Right”, “Folsom Prison Blues”, “Whole Lotta Shakin’ Goin’ On”, “Hound Dog”.....and more.



Price Per Person: \$120

Deadline to Register or cancel reservation: August 23

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024 (Matinee)**

### **Miracle on 34th Street**

#### **Harmony Theatre – Hillsboro, IN**

A holiday classic from the writer of the musical theatre classic, *The Music Man!*, and based on the movie of the same name, *Miracle on 34th Street* features a book and score by none other than Meredith Willson. Single mother, Doris Walker, doesn’t want her six-year-old Susan’s head filled with romantic notions. Their neighbor, Fred Gailey, tries to woo Doris by charming Susan and taking her to see Santa Claus at Macy’s, where Doris works. Doris is not impressed, but when it turns out that Macy’s Santa may, in fact, be the real Kris Kringle, a wave of love spreads across New York City that melts even the most cynical hearts. Filled with humor, spectacle and such beloved songs as “Pinecones and Hollyberries,” “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas” and “My State, My Kansas,” this joyous, heartwarming musical is pure family entertainment, wholesome without being cloying. *Miracle on 34th Street The Musical* is the perfect holiday treat for everyone.



Price Per Person: \$120

Deadline to Register or cancel reservation: October 28

## Grain Entrapment Concerns Rising in IL

Recently, Illinois has had the largest number of grain entrapments in the US with 10 in 2020 and another 5 in 2021. These 15 cases represent approximately one quarter of all cases reported in 2021-2022 by Purdue University’s Agricultural Safety and Health Program.

### **What Are Grain Entrapments?**

Grain entrapment is an agricultural injury in which a person enters a grain bin or silo to dislodge a blockage caused by out-of-condition grain and then becomes partially entrapped or fully entrapped in the grain. An entrapment in which the victim is completely under grain is known as engulfment. Every year in the United States, roughly 30 grain entrapments occur with on average about 50% of the people who become entrapped dying. From 1962-2021, more than 1,325 such incidents have been documented, but the number could be higher due to nonreporting. Historically about 25% of all grain entrapment incidents occurred to youth under the age of 20 with cases as young as 4 years old documented by Purdue University.

### **Cause Of Entrapment**

While there are several different ways a person can get entrapped within grain, the most common method is getting caught in flowing grain. This usually occurs when a worker goes into a bin to either “walk the grain” or breakup grain stuck at the bin sump while the unload auger is left on. The worker either stumbles, gets too close, or reacts too slowly and in about 30 seconds is fully engulfed under grain. Approximately 70% of all documented grain entrapment cases are due to flowing grain

*Author: Salah Issa, PhD Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist; UIUC* of which approximately 63% end up being fatal. Even when the victim is only partially entrapped (i.e., head is exposed), 7% still die. This is probably due to grain pressure on the chest which is 50% to 120% greater than the pressure at which lungs can operate.

### **Preventative Measures**

It is important to note that the number one cause of grain entrapments is the grain going bad (out-of-condition grain), forcing the farmer/worker to go into the bin to remove any blockage and empty the bin. By the same thread, the most effective prevention method is preventing the grain from going bad. This can be accomplished by properly drying grain, maintaining the grain bins, and constant monitoring of the grain (temperature, moisture content sensors, etc).

### **What If My Grain Still Goes Out Of Condition?**

This is where preparation becomes crucial, because even with all the preventative methods implemented above, grain can still go out-of-condition. It is important to study your grain bin and evaluate strategies that you can use to empty out the bin without entering the bin. Many of these strategies involve prepping the bin while still empty. The goal is to develop a strategy where you can address out-of-condition grain without going inside the bin. Training trainings programs and local extension can help you plan how to handle out-of-condition grain. For more information, visit [carle.org/farmsafety](http://carle.org/farmsafety) or the Carle Center for Rural Health and Farm Safety at (217) 902-3117.



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# Ag in the Classroom



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## Lesson Spotlight

This semester we are discussing renewable resources, such as wind energy. We spotlight the ingenuity of a teen William Kamkwamba from Africa who developed a windmill to bring electricity to his village. Students make their own paper windmill demonstrating the use of wind power.



314 students and family members completed activities at the 2nd annual STEAM night at Barkstall Elementary.



## STEAM Night

12 Sigma Alpha ladies came out to teach and lead lessons all about soil!



## Tower Garden



Mr. O'Conner's class at Unity West presented to the Unit 7 School Board on their Tower School Garden. They polled teachers on what to grow, packaged their product, and tasted things they've never tried before.



Julie attended the Insect Fear Film Festival at the U of I to experience the work of our superhero featured this winter, May Berenbaum.



## Insects

## NEVER STOP READING

SSarah recorded a video for Read Across America week featuring items that might appear on farms and at Farmer's Markets. It can be viewed on The Land Connection's Facebook page. Rod Stoll, the VP of Marketplace Engagement at Farm Credit, read a dairy book to Nick Ponder's third-grade class.



Connect with us!  
Sarah Kaper, Director & Educator  
Julie Adcock, Educator



# Golf Cart Raffle

\$100/ticket - Only 400 tickets being sold!

WWW.CCFBFUNDATION.COM/RAFFLE



**Grand Prize**  
NEW 2023 EZ-GO GOLF CART  
STREET LEGAL  
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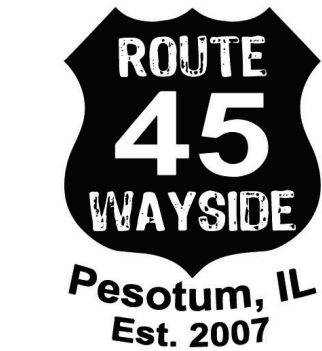
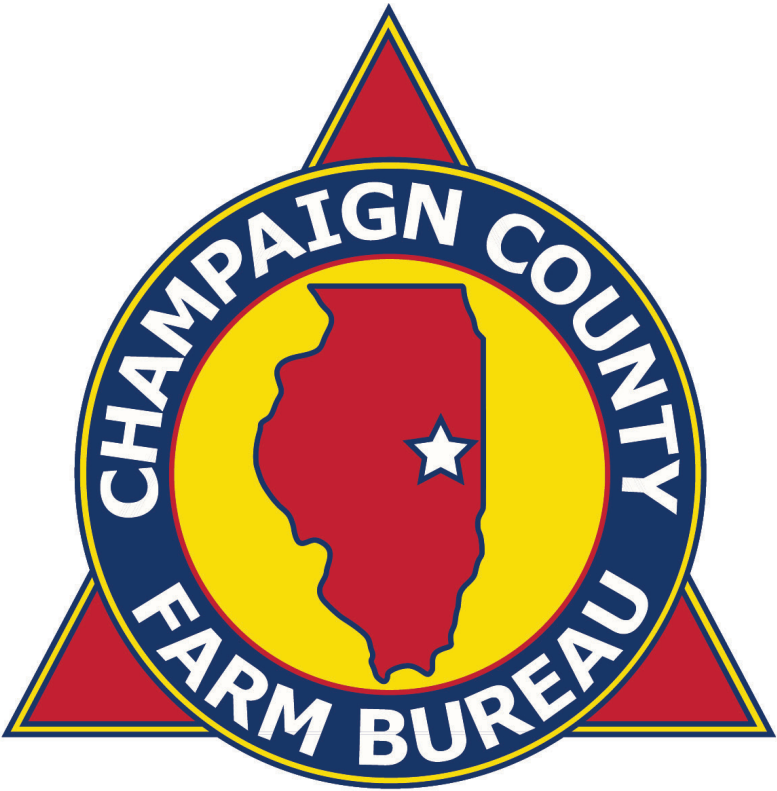
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# Should I Save for Retirement or College?

*Written by Lorraine K. Zenge, Private Wealth Consultant, COUNTRY Trust Bank*

Paying for a child’s college education is a goal for many parents, along with other financial goals like saving for retirement and buying a home. When there are so many priorities, it’s hard to know what to tackle first. Here are some things to consider as you make that decision.

## Time Is The Key

Saving for retirement is a critical priority for most, and one that some put on the backburner, thinking they can start saving later after they’ve taken care of other financial commitments. But when you start saving for retirement is vital because of the magic of compound interest. Let’s review this example of Joe vs Katy:

Katy made saving for retirement a priority. She contributed \$4,000 annually to a tax-deferred account earning 8 percent, from age 25-35. She made no additional contributions, and by age 65, had accumulated over \$680,000.

Joe began saving later. He contributed the same \$4,000 annually to a tax-deferred account earning 8% but contributed from age 35 all the way to age 65. At that point, he had accumulated just over \$532,000.

The difference is time. Katy had the benefit of more years of compound interest.

Saving for college can be more challenging than retirement because there is less time to save. Most people have 40+ working years to save for retirement, and through disciplined, consistent saving, a nice nest egg can be accumulated.

For college, though, it’s a different story. Parents usually have approximately 18 years to save, and if you’re like most parents, you’re hoping your kids graduate in four years. This means, should your children choose to go to college, there’s limited time to save and a very short time to distribute the funds, making investing and distributing your savings more challenging.

## How To Reduce College Costs

There are many ways to cut college costs such as:

- Considering lower-cost schools
- Applying for scholarships and grants
- Utilizing a community college for the first two years
- Attending a school close to home and commuting
- Military service

It’s also important to have an honest conversation with your student about your budget and their expected financial contribution. Finally, there are a variety of college savings options that offer their own unique benefits; some also offer the option to save for things other than college.

At the very worst case, there are loans available to assist with financing. However, there are no retirement loans. Having your own retirement savings in order before allocating funds for college is a way you can “put on your oxygen mask first,” so to speak.

Can I save for retirement AND college? Can you have a solid retirement and a college education for a child? The answer is yes. It just takes planning and making choices.

It may require additional savings, trimming expenses, working longer, or a hybrid-retirement where part-time employment is part of the solution. As with most of life’s important goals, it’s about time, setting priorities, and balancing a multitude of choices.

## Get The Guidance You Need From A Financial Advisor

People who reach their financial goals rarely do it alone. A COUNTRY Trust Bank Financial Advisor can help put together a plan for improving your financial wellness and balancing your future goals. Learn more about our planning services and contact a representative today.



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# Cool Beans: Soy Surrounds Us

From the cooking oil in the cupboard and the feed in the hen house to the souls of the shoes at the back door, soy surrounds me. Every morning, soy hits me in the face with my makeup and the gut with my protein shake. We fuel our tractors and diesel-engine trucks with renewable, American-made soy-based biodiesel. And for a few weeks this spring, I will see the bean more than my family, when I plant more than 350 million soybean seeds on our farm.

Measuring smaller than my pinky nail, the mighty, protein-rich bean's highly versatile characteristics accommodate global demands for food, feed and fuel. Illinois legislation currently attempts to identify the soybean as the Illinois state bean. After all, Illinois farmers grow more soybeans than anyone, with the reigning title of No. 1 soybean state in the nation.

Soybeans cover about one-fourth of Illinois' land mass and about 45% of my family's farmable land. We grow ultra-high-protein beans for niche markets that produce protein shakes and plant-based meats. We contract with companies to grow seed soybeans that farmers will buy and grow the following year. And we serve the traditional markets for Illinois soybeans: A domestic supply of high-protein animal feed and a significant export market thanks to our state's valuable river transportation system. In fact, 60% of Illinois soybeans are exported, credited to the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio rivers bordering or flowing through our state.

Beans from our small-town farm often head to China, the top soybean importer by a wide margin. The country buys four times the American soybeans of No. 2 Mexico for oil and animal feed. Meanwhile, animals represent our nation's top soybean consumer. Chickens, turkeys, pigs, cattle and farm-raised fish thrive on the protein content in soybean meal that makes up 80% of the bean.

In the kitchen, soy milk and margarine (plant butter) serve as dairy alternatives. People treat tofu, a soybean product, like meat. Newspapers print with soy ink, kids color with soy-filled crayons, and soy frequently makes food labels in the grocery aisles. Serving as an emulsifier for some foods, soy lecithin allows oil and water to mix in favorite snacks like granola bars and chocolates.

On the farm, soybeans collaborate well with conservation-minded practices of no-till and cover crops. They add benefits to the soil in a corn-soybean plant-



ing rotation and provide our farm a double-cropping option after July-harvested wheat within a single growing season. They are pretty cool beans.

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



## Are YOU a current VET STUDENT?

Apply for Illinois Farm Bureau's  
iVET loan program today.

- Loan for food animal vet students
- No interest on loan while you're in school
- Up to \$40,000 loan distributed over three years

### STUDENT TIMELINE:

- Applications due May 15
- Interviews are conducted in April
- Loan proceeds are dispersed in August

[www.ilfb.org/iVET](http://www.ilfb.org/iVET)

Apply online today.



## WOMEN'S COMMITTEE RECIPE OF THE MONTH

*Submitted by Paulette Brock*

### Brown Sugar Bars

½ c. butter (melted)  
½ c. brown sugar  
1 c. flour  
Mix and spread in 9x13 pan and

bake until edges are browned about 8-10 minutes at 450 degrees. Watch carefully.

Mix:  
2 eggs well beaten  
1 c. brown sugar  
2 T. flour  
2 and ½ t. baking powder  
Add salt & vanilla- (Recipe doesn't specify. I used ½ t. salt and 1 t. vanilla)

1 and ½ c. pecans or walnuts  
1 c. coconut  
Spread above mixture over baked crust and bake at 350 degrees about 20 minutes or until done. (I baked slightly longer.) Cut while hot.

Note: I have had this recipe since I was a college student. I brought it to a Women's Committee potluck recently, and since the recipe was requested, I decided I would share it with our wider Farm Bureau membership.

#### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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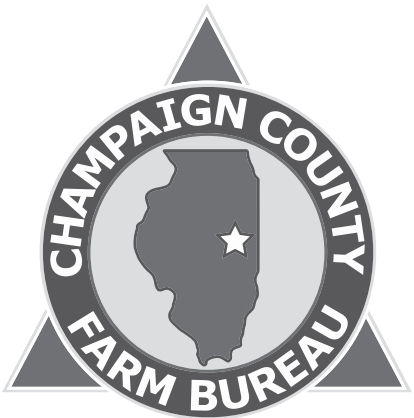
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#### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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

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Contact us at (217) 352-5235  
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# Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference

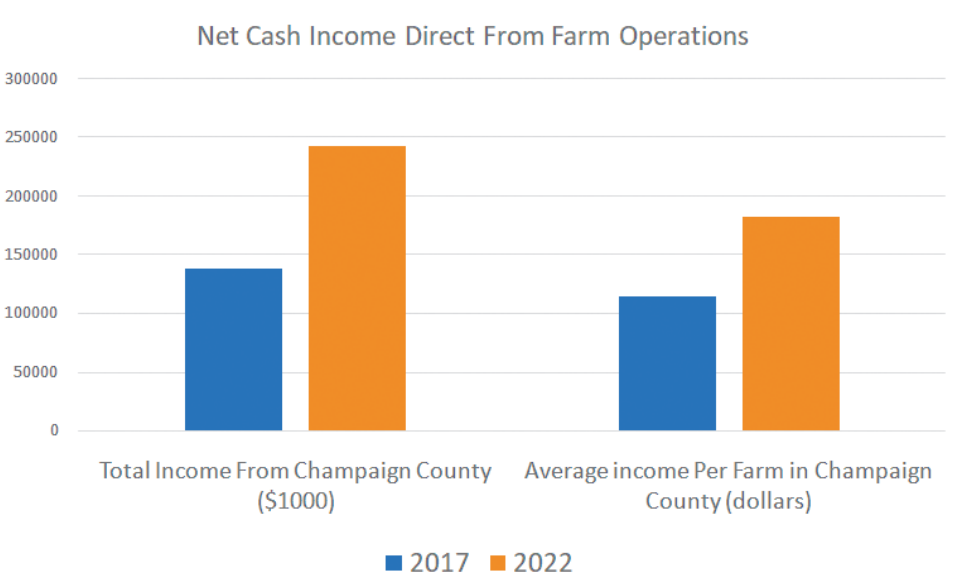
Champaign County Farm Bureau joined Illinois Farm Bureau at the Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference on February 20th in Springfield to talk about IFB policy, legislative updates, and recap 2023.



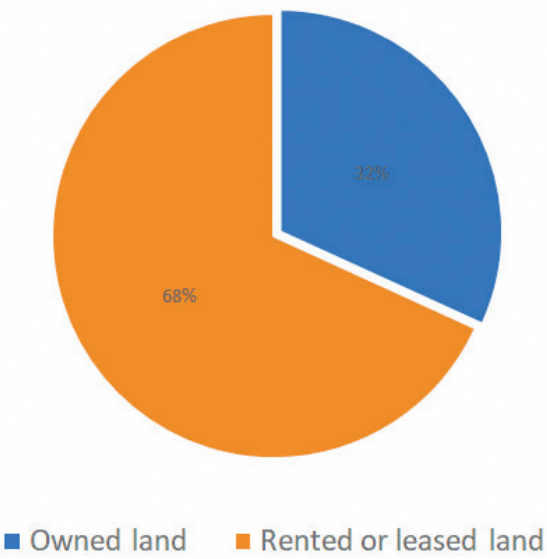
## 2022 Census of Agriculture Data

The National Agricultural Statistics Service released 2022 Census data in February. Census data can be found online at [www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](http://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus). According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, “The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land – whether rural or urban – count if \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.”

Champaign County Farm Bureau will be highlighting 2022 census data in the upcoming months. Census data provides valuable agricultural information highlighting the importance of agriculture.



Farmland in Champaign County



Years on Current Farm

