



# Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 94, No. 4 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821 April, 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.”

## Introducing the New Directors of the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board

By: Lesley Gooding

Champaign County Farm Bureau recently reorganized its Board of Directors. Several retired directors were honored and new directors were ushered in. Take some time to meet the new CCFB Directors and find out which townships they will be representing.



**Brian DeWitt - Pesotum Township**  
Brian DeWitt is a new CCFB Board Member. He is involved with a corn and soybean farm in Champaign County. Brian's greatest area of concern for agriculture is GMO & GMO Labeling. Besides farming Brian likes dirt bikes, vacationing, and scuba diving. Brain and his wife, Melanie, reside in Tolono, IL.

### Trent Wolken – Harwood/Kerr Townships

Trent Wolken is a Champaign County native growing up on a farm in Gifford, IL. Trent graduated from Parkland College and currently farms corn and soybeans with his father. He is also involved with a trucking operation.

Trent has been active on the Young Ag Leader Committee. This is his first term serving as a CCFB Board

Member. His area of greatest concern is the EPA including water management and also the EPA's desire to control other issues. The grain markets are another area of concern for Trent.

Trent is currently busy preparing for planting season. He is excited by agriculture's new technology and is looking forward to a successful growing season!

### Steven Hammel – Somer Township

Steven Hammel is taking over the reins as the CCFB Director representing Somer Township. Steven is involved with grain farming in Champaign County. His area of greatest concern to agriculture is how land is being developed. Steven's interests include Illini sports & travel. Steven and his wife, Colleen, live in Champaign, IL, and are the proud parents of two children.

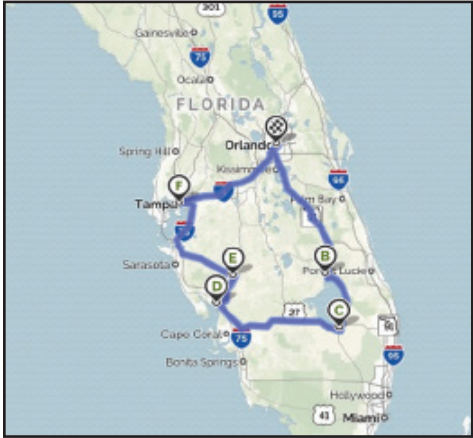
**Andy Hughes – Philo Township**  
Andy Hughes is the new CCFB face of Philo Township. Andy is involved in a grain and livestock farm in Champaign County. Andy is concerned about crop safety, animal agriculture and animal health. In addition to farming, Andy enjoys showing hogs & kid's sports. Andy and his wife, Tina, reside in Urbana and have four children ranging in age from 19 to 27 years old.

## Agriculture in the Sunshine State

By: David Fulton



In the last days of our 2016 Illinois Winter, two of our young ag leaders escaped the cold to tour the Sunshine State and learn more about their farms and ranches.



On March 1, 2016 Champaign County Young Ag Leaders, Kirk Builta and Reid Thompson joined the Illinois Young Leaders (YL) Agricultural Industry Tour on an adventure to

Florida. Builta attended the tour on behalf of the Champaign County Farm Bureau and Thompson, who serves on the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders State Committee representing District 12, represented Young Leaders from Champaign, Douglas, Edgar and Vermilion Counties.

Builtta describes the tour as an opportunity to see the agricultural industry on a different scale and with different surroundings, “Florida’s ag industry has always intrigued me, and the opportunity to see agriculture first-hand in an entirely different climate was fascinating”, said Builta. There are a lot of positives in attending these industry tours, said Builta; “it provides a chance to experience other parts of the agricultural industry aside from corn and soybeans we know in Illinois”.

Standing out to Builta were two prominent challenges facing Florida farmers; citrus greening and finding adequate labor. Huanglongbing (HLB) is also known as citrus greening – a disease which has crippled citrus production in Asia, Africa and various other parts of the world. In 2004 the disease was identified in Brazil and according to the University of Florida Extension Service wherever this disease has been found, millions of trees have died. Builta mentioned that in the past 5-10 years Florida has lost a significant number of growers due to greening. At this time there is no USDA approved chemical to treat or cure citrus greening.

Builtta said one farmer indicated in the next 20 years there is a strong chance that citrus production could leave Florida entirely. A loss that could prove catastrophic to the agricultural industry in Florida. To counteract the disease outbreak many farmers have diversified their groves with other fruits. On such farm visited on the tour now produces blueberries. Citrus greening has been a priority challenge for Florida farmers and a voiced concern on the YL Ag Industry Tour.



Greening Citrus

## SAVE MONEY & SAVE WATER

By: Lesley Gooding

Do you have a leaky toilet? Fixing leaks and runny toilets can save you significant money and save water at the same time. A simple toilet test once per year will give you the answers you need! Stop by the Champaign County Farm Bureau and pick up your FREE toilet testing kit today!

Kits are provided by the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium and the East-Central Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Committee with funding from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The kit includes dye tablets and directions for testing your toilet. For more information regarding the importance of this simple test visit [www.MahometAquiferConsortium.org](http://www.MahometAquiferConsortium.org) or [www.RWSPC.org](http://www.RWSPC.org)

### IMPORTANT MAHOMET AQUIFER FACTS courtesy of Mahomet Aquifer Consortium and RWSPC

- We can only use 1% of the earth's water for human purposes
- The Mahomet Aquifer supplies 15 counties with water for public/business use
- Toilets are the main source of water use in the home, 30%
- Old toilets use 6 gallons of water, new “Water Sense” toilets use 1.28 gallons
- Leaky toilets can waste 200 gallons of water every day, equal to 50 extra flushes a day
- Water Sense toilets can save you 13 gallons of water, saving \$110 a year or \$2,200 over the lifetime of the toilet

[www.MahometAquiferConsortium.org](http://www.MahometAquiferConsortium.org)

Continue Ag in sunshine stae on Pg. 6.....



## Women's Committee Spring Fling

Thank you to all who signed up for the Women's Committee Spring Fling!

The first "set" for spring fling will be from 10AM to 11AM with Diane Noland. The second set will be Assistant Manager, David Fulton and his friend Nate Dickson playing music from 11AM to 11:45 AM. Lunch will be served from 11:45AM to 12:30PM and the third presentation will be focused on Getting Ready for Spring- Organizing and Decorative Touch-ups for your home. This section will be shared by Andrea Flarity from Storage Options and Solutions and Amy Leinhart from These Four Walls.

*Wednesday, April 13, beginning at 10 a.m.*

*Lunch Served by the Women's Committee*  
**Registration Deadline: Friday, April 8**

## Give Your Driving Skills a TUNE-UP! Register for a Defensive Driving Course at Champaign County Farm Bureau!

Tuesday, May 10 and  
Wednesday, May 11  
8 a.m. to Noon  
BOTH days!



Champaign County Farm Bureau  
Auditorium: 801 N. Country Fair Drive

**RESERVATION DEADLINE: May 2**  
**call: 352-5235 to reserve a spot today!**

## "Check Your Calendar!" April - 2016

11	Women's Committee - at Presense	10a.m.
13	Women's Committee Spring Fling	10a.m.
14	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
19	Legislative	7:30a.m.
19	Premier Ladies Marketing	9a.m.
TBD	<b>FULL BOARD</b>	<b>TBD</b>



## May 2016

10-11	Defensive Driving	8 a.m. - noon
12	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
TBD	Legislative	
TBD	Board	

*\*Note: Most committees do not meet during May due to planting season:  
Please e-mail your committee chair or call 352-5235 if in doubt.*



## April President's Report 2016

**Chris Murray**

Planting season is upon us now as we have gone through one of the most mild winters in recent years. Champaign county farm bureau has had a busy March. We wanted to hear your opinions on what kind of information that is beneficial so we held winter view-point meetings at five locations across the county. Attendance was good we had lots of input saying they're concerned about the adoption of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. Government from township to national levels, there was a feeling we need more local participation from farmers and people with rural ties.

It was great to see another record year out of our coffee shop tours. All the locations added new donors to support Ag in the Classroom. This tour has special interest to me as ten years ago this is what sparked an interest in me into the Farm Bureau and programs they support.

In closing I wish everyone a safe and productive spring. This time of year can be very hectic take the extra minute to familiarize yourself with your surroundings and be extra cautious with the large equipment traveling from field to field.

Sincerely,  
Chris Murray



## 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)*

For more information and registration call David at 352-5235  
or Email: david@ccfarmbureau.com

## Trying to Figure Out the Markets? What Percentage of New Crop Should I be Selling?

Due to planting season, we will not be meeting until June 6th.



We appreciate all members who came to our April 4th meeting to hear Merrill Crowley.

Interested in learning how to market your grain?

**Join us in June!**



Champaign County Farm Bureau  
104th County Annual Meeting and Gordyville Midwest Ag Expo  
Survey Results

Champaign County Farm Bureau conducted a survey of Annual Meeting Attendees and Gordyville’s Midwest Ag Expo Attendees. The tabulated and combined survey results are listed below.

Survey respondents were asked several questions regarding current agriculture issues.

**Regarding nutrient management best practices, respondents were asked to indicate which practices are used on their farm. The top five responses were:**

- o Regularly test soil for Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) levels
- o Use Variable Rate Technology for fertilizer applications
- o Split Nitrogen applications
- o Wait until soil temperatures fall to 50 degrees before applying fall anhydrous ammonia
- o Follow the U of I Agronomy Handbook recommendations for P & K applications

**CCFB asked respondents “How aware are you of the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy?”**

- o 105 people responded VERY AWARE
- o 90 people responded SOMEWHAT AWARE
- o 15 people responded NOT AWARE AT ALL

**In regards to participating in a tile monitoring project in which a third party would sample your tile outlets on a weekly basis testing for nitrates but only sharing the results with CCFB? The information would then be aggregated and made public...**

- o 61 YES
- o 134 NO

**CCFB asked “Do you believe the current crop insurance programs provide adequate protection in a multi-year declining market?”**

- o 68 YES
- o 39 NO
- o 88 DON’T KNOW YET

**The final question asked “How should the state solve its state budget problems?” Respondents were asked to indicate two acceptable methods.**

- o Raise fees for service 53
- o Revoke exemptions 42
- o Increase the sales tax 57
- o Increase the income tax 39
- o Establish a service tax 44

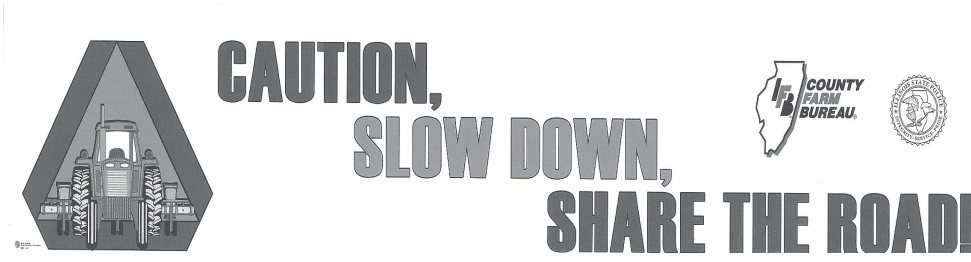
A Safety Message from Illinois Farm Bureau  
by: Peggy Romba



Stay Alert for Spring Planting!

This time of year poses a high risk of injury for farmers as fatigue, stress and pressure build as they spend as much time as they can in the fields. Not only are hours long and the workload heavy, but farmers also have to deal with equipment breakdowns and weather-related issues. Staying safe during planting is challenging. Contact with machinery presents the biggest risk for both injuries and fatalities but there are ways to avoid them and stay sharp.

- Eat balanced meals
- Set realistic work priorities
- Consider hiring help for the busy weeks of planting; don’t try to do it all yourself
- Stay well-hydrated to maintain awareness
- Get a good night’s sleep
- Be as rested as you can be; if necessary shut down for a few minutes and take a nap. Even a 20 minute break with a short nap can really help improve alertness.
- Take a short walk; it’s unhealthy to sit for long periods of time.
- Always have your cell phone on your person; see it as a safety feature
- Remember to share the roads safely with vehicles as well as farm equipment



Ag All Around You

By: David Fulton

Spring is among us and in the months of March and April we are reminded of awareness and education in agriculture. As we prepare for the 2016 growing season, farmers and consumers alike are reminded of positive impact that hard working farmers have on Champaign County consumers and the entire United States. Annually the agricultural community is given a week to promote their efforts in providing safely grown and produced foods for families in our community.

Local Champaign County Agricultural organizations recognized National Ag Week on March 13-16. The nationally recognized event was first celebrated in 1973 – providing public awareness of agriculture’s essential role in our society. The total population in Champaign County is 207,133 of that, less than 13% is the rural population and represents 1,312 farms. Although the number of Champaign County farmers is decreasing, they continue to raise food for the world and be ranked for their efforts nationally. Although the American farmer represents less than 2% of the population, Illinois continues to name agriculture as its #1 industry; creating a great career path

for today’s youth in our community.

Illinois Ag is also associated with the following facts, provided by Illinois Farm Bureau – the major crops produced in Illinois are soybeans and corn. As for production rank, Illinois ranks 1st in soybeans and 2nd in corn, compared to the other 49 states.

In 2014, Champaign County farmers grew 59,959,000 bushels of corn and was the 4th most producing county in Illinois. The farmers of Champaign County grew 16,284,000 bushels of soybeans and were ranked 2nd in production. Corn grown in Champaign County could be used in several ways: ethanol, biodegradable packing peanuts, tires, crayons, chalk, or in glass and surface cleaners.

Champaign County Agriculture is all around you - from the food on your table, the fiber in your clothing and the fuel that powers your car – a farmer is to thank for all these products.

To learn more about agriculture facts and national ag week please visit: <http://www.agday.org/>

Lost and Found; Part II  
Foundation Looks to Reconnect with Alumni

After posting the names of lost former scholarship recipients last month, we appreciate the members who have helped us to reconnect with our alumni. As the CCFB Foundation prepares to celebrate our 30th anniversary, we hope to reconnect with the additional alumni found on the list below. Over the years many changes can affect our connections to our community; through marriages last names change and through career advancements some have left Champaign County to impact communities all over the globe. We’re proud of all of our alumni and are anxious to reconnect.

Below is a continued list of alumni with whom we have lost touch. If you know any of these past Farm Bureau Scholars please feel free to send us their contact information, or encourage them to do so. Addresses can be sent to the CCFB Foundation via email at [kirk@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:kirk@ccfarmbureau.com) or by calling the CCFB office at 217-352-5235. We appreciate your support in helping us to reconnect with our growing alumni base! Please watch the next edition of Champaign County Farm Bureau News for additional recipients.

Stephanie LaTour	2007-2009
Kristen Leigh	1997
Andrew Lubben	1994
Jennifer Luth	1997
Candis McCleary	2001-2004
Chantel McGarigle	2000
Neal McHenry	2003
Stacey Meek	1998
Chad Meltzer	2012-2014
Lorianne Miller	2008-2011
Nicholas Miller	2010
Richard Mohr	1990
Jason Motsinger	2008-2011
Jason Mumm	1997-2000
Adrienne Musselman	2000
Matthew Nichols	2001
Kristin Nickell	2004-2006
Kristen O'Neil	1989
Samantha Parkhill	2005-2008
Travis Parkhill	2006
Jeanne Pfeffer	1990
Laura Piccioli	2009
Catherine Pittman	2011-2012
Diane Plewa	2002, 2005
Shelby Reed	2012
Jason Renfrow	1993
Heather Roberts	1997-1998
Daniel Sage	2007
Matthew Schaefer	1996
Kimberly Schmidt	1990
Marcus Shaw	2003-2006
Brian Spannagel	2007-2010
Tara Sparks	1999
Lisa Stipp	1994-1995
Georgette Suidan	1999
Geoff Summerville	1989
Benjamin Tate	2014-2015
Maria Lynn Thomas	2008-2011
Bailey Walden	2013-2014
Brady Walden	2013-2014
Shannon Walsh	1991
Kyle Welborn	2006-2007
Tiffany Wetmore	1999
Lisa Wilhelm	2002
Montana Willamon	2004-2005
Wade Williams	2014-2015
Tracy Woodcock	2009-2011
Jessie Yearsley	2004-2005
Emmett Yearsley	2009-2011

<http://www.ccfarmbureau.com/home>





**Kirk Builta**  
Executive Director



[www.ccfbfoundation.com](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com)

*Like us on Facebook! [facebook.com/CCFBFoundation](https://facebook.com/CCFBFoundation)*



**Myla Munro**  
Earth Partners Coordinator

## 2016 Coffee Shop Tours Were a Tremendous Success!

Earth Partners celebrated a fantastic week of Coffee Shop Tours thanks to the hundreds of supporters who are helping us to expand Agricultural Literacy in our communities. The Coffee Shop Tour wouldn't be possible without our fantastic local chairmen and WDWS radio personality Dave Gentry. Our five Coffee Shop locations put up fantastic numbers and our pledged total for the week exceeds \$24,500! Thanks again to everyone who supports our efforts to educate students, teachers and the community about agriculture and natural resources!



Auctioneer Jerry Wallace, a longtime supporter of the Earth Partners program and Coffee Shop Tour auctions off a basket of Illinois products. The auction, held at each location was broadcast on WDWS NewsTalk 1400.



Champaign Coffee Shop Tour co-chair Nancy Strunk (right) thanks Mr. and Mrs. Paul Curtis for their longtime support. Strunk, co-chaired the Champaign stop with business partner Sara Tondini.



After lunch at the Stagecoach, Gifford location supporters enjoy Eddie Hannagan's auction.



WDWS personality Dave Gentry (left) discusses congratulates Mahomet Chairman Chris Karr (right) on a record setting event while Earth Partners Committee Chairwoman Renee Weitekamp (center) looks on.



Earth Partners Coordinator Myla Munro thanks donors at the Champaign Coffee Shop Tour. This year's Champaign stop was held at El Toro.



Due to record support and attendance at the Dewey Coffee Shop stop thanks in part to the generous support of Dewey Bank, this year's luncheon was held at the Dewey Community Church. Chairman Jacob Kesler welcomes the large crowd of local contributors.



To conclude the week of Coffee Shop Tours, Alexis Murray, daughter of CCFB President Christopher Murray draws the name of Virlon Suits, the winner of our Illinois products basket.



Mahomet Coffee Shop Tour attendees enjoy lunch provided by COUNTRY Financial. We appreciate COUNTRY's support in providing lunch at each Coffee Shop location.

## Join Us in Thanking our 2016 Coffee Shop Tour Supporters!

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| A & G Genetics<br>Agribile<br>Allen, Korkowski and Assoc.<br>Arends Hogan Walker<br>Ayers Farms<br>B & B Farm Toys<br>Babb Agri Sales<br>Bank of Rantoul<br>Hal Barnhart<br>Beaird Insurance Agency<br>Rodney Bergman<br>Scott Bidner<br>Birkey's Farm Store<br>Brenda Keith Realty<br>Joe Burke<br>Darrel and Barb Busboom<br>Maury Busboom<br>Andy Busch<br>Busey Bank of Mahomet<br>Paul Cain<br>Camp Farm Management<br>Mr. and Mrs. Dave Carpenter<br>Central Illinois Culvert<br>Charles Myerscough Trucking<br>Claymore Realty, Inc.<br>Community Tire and Lube<br>Bonnie and Paul Compton<br>COUNTRY Financial<br>COUNTRY Financial-Dan Duitsman<br>Crane and Assoc. Appraisals<br>Curtis Orchards<br>Dr. Galen Dale<br>Kenneth Dalenburg<br>Stephanie Davenport<br>Decker Trucking<br>Dewey Bank<br>Duden & Silver Heating & Cooling<br>Eastern Illini Electric Coop<br>Bev Ehler<br>Ehler Brothers Fertilizer<br>Ehler Brothers Seed<br>Wayne Emkes<br>Farm Credit Illinois<br>Farmers Ag Service<br>Farmers Business Network<br>Fertilizer Dealer Supply<br>First Mid Illinois Bank and Trust<br>Fisher National Bank<br>Fisher National Bank of Mahomet<br>Freedom Firearms<br>Gifford State Bank<br>Gordon Farms Seed Co.<br>Gordon Hannagan Auction Co.<br>William Hatch<br>Hayes Drilling Co<br>Hedrick Farms<br>Gale Helpingstine<br>Gerald and Juanita Henry<br>Mary and Eldon Hesterberg<br>Hesterberg Farms<br>Hicksgas<br>Hieser Insurance<br>HovelN Heating and Cooling<br>Hunters Heaven<br>I&I Antique Tractor &<br>Gas Engine Club | I & I Women's Auxiliary<br>Royce and Shauna Ideus<br>Illini FS<br>Illinois Foundation Seeds, Inc.<br>Insurance Providers Group<br>Jackson Quality Construction<br>Jay Farms<br>John Schmidt Family<br>Reba and Chris Karr<br>JC Karr<br>Kemper Industrial Equipment<br>Kesler Farms<br>Jon Khachaturian<br>Kirchner Building Centers<br>Bill and Deb Klein<br>Brandy and Kyle Krapf<br>Bret Kroencke<br>Krukewitt Farms<br>LA Gourmet<br>Lawrance Crop Insurance<br>Longview Capitol Bank<br>Ludlow Coop<br>M & M Briggs Farms<br>Marine Bank<br>John and Pat Marker<br>Brett Marker<br>Martin Hood Friese & Associates<br>Gary Maxwell<br>Susan Meacham<br>Nancy Jo Merz<br>Jodi and Dick Miller<br>Rod Milsap/Cargill<br>Minneeci's at the Crossing<br>Michelle and Cory Mitchell<br>Bea and William Motzer<br>Mullins Insurance-Nathan Hubbard<br>Chris Murray<br>Murray Enterprises<br>Murray Farms<br>Murray Seeds<br>Kathy and Gary Myerscough<br>NAPA of Mahomet<br>Nelson Insurance Company<br>Nancy Nichols<br>Sheila O'Connor<br>Ogden Metal Works<br>Beth and Dennis Opperman<br>P & P Heating and Cooling<br>Parkin Farms<br>Parklawn Service<br>Paxton Ready Mix<br>Pfizer Foundation<br>Kristi and Mark Pflugmacher<br>Philo Exchange Bank<br>Philo Fireman<br>Pioneer Hi Bred<br>Premier Cooperative<br>Progressive Propane<br>Bob Quinlan<br>Norm Rademacher<br>Rich Rademacher<br>Amy and Ryan Rademaker<br>Angie and Chuck Raup<br>Wilma Raup Suits | Remax Realty-Russ Taylor<br>Rick Wolken Farms<br>Leslie Risotti<br>Larry Roberts<br>Senator Chapin Rose<br>Royal Insurance Agency<br>Schluter Seed<br>Eugene Schmidt<br>Schoonover Sewer Service<br>Shirley and Melvin Schroeder<br>Shaff Implement<br>Jan Siders<br>Sidney Dairy Barn<br>Smith Seed Co.<br>Sonrise Farms<br>St. Joseph Pioneer Corn<br>Production<br>Stan Wolken Trucking<br>Judi and Steve Stierwalt<br>Dee Stierwalt<br>Loretta Stoerger<br>Stone Seed Group<br>Nancy Strunk<br>Stutsman Ag<br>Melissa and Jeff Suits<br>Wilma and Virlon Suits<br>Suits Ag Service<br>Tax Doctor<br>Dale Tharp<br>The Andersons<br>The Stagecoach<br>Carol Thomas<br>Thrivent Financial<br>Marla Todd<br>Marie Tompkins<br>Sara Tondini<br>Top Flight Grain<br>Trav's Automotive<br>Trent Wolken Seed<br>TT Distribution<br>United Fuel<br>United Prairie<br>Vedder Welding<br>Village Garden Shoppe<br>Vogelsang Plumbing<br>Wallace Land Company<br>Lin Warfel<br>Warner Brothers, Inc.<br>Sarah and Lee Waters<br>Anne and Adam Watson<br>Watson and Sons<br>Stephen Wattnem<br>Wayne Weber<br>Renee and Todd Weitekamp<br>Westchester Group Investment<br>Management<br>Nancy and John Wiemer<br>William Wilken<br>Doyle Williams<br>Tom Williams<br>Scott Williamson<br>Dr. Valerie Woodruff<br>Larry and Marguerite Zahnd |
|--|---|---|

*Thanks also for the continued support by*  
**NewsTalk 1400 | WDWS-AM**



Earth Partners committee member Steve Stierwalt and Dave Gentry catch up with an out-of-state donor at the Philo Tavern.



Earth Partners Coordinator Myla Munro and WDWS's Dave Gentry pause for a photo after the Philo Coffee Shop luncheon. Gentry has been an integral part of the Coffee Shop Tour since 1999 sharing the good news of agriculture throughout east central Illinois.





**Vann Parkin**  
Country Financial Agency Manager



**FINANCIAL**

**AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT**



**Marcia Woolcott**  
COUNTRY Financial Agency Assistant  
352-0012

## Farmers anxious to get in the fields, reminded to put safety first



**Craig Voigt**  
217-328-0023



**Scott Jackson**  
217-359-9335



**Bret Kroencke**  
217-359-9391



**Jessie DeHaan**  
217-352-3466



**Aaron Wheeler**  
217-586-6170



**Jim Nelson**  
217-892-4479



**Stan Ochs**  
217-352-3296

### COUNTRY Financial® offers safety tips for farmers and drivers

As the spring planting season gets underway, farmers and drivers may need to be reminded of the hazards that exist in fields and on roadways. Both farmers and drivers will need to adjust to having large, slow-moving agricultural equipment on rural highways and county roads once more.

During planting season, farmers work long hours. While some farmers may have already started planting, others whose crops are insured under the Federal Crop Insurance Program follow specific deadlines for getting corn and soybeans into the ground. “Farmers are anxious to get back into their fields and get the job done. They’re working on tight deadlines, but they need to remember to take care of themselves and others in the process,” said Eric Vanasdale, senior loss control representative for COUNTRY Financial®. “Accidents happen when you’re tired, distracted and rushed. Farmers need to be on alert all hours of the day in order to keep themselves and other drivers safe.”

#### Six considerations for farmers

1. Get plenty of rest and take frequent breaks. Drink plenty of fluids and have healthy snacks on hand. Accidents are more likely to occur once fatigue sets in.
2. Be familiar with how prescriptions and over the counter medications affect reaction time. Some medications and machinery do not mix. Consult your doctor if your medications impair your ability to safely operate your equipment.
3. Tell family and helping hands where you will be working and when. Also, have a cell phone on you at all times in case of emergencies or accidents.
4. Avoid driving machinery on roads at dawn and dusk. Vision is most challenged and most accidents happen during these times of day. They’re also peak commuting times for drivers heading to and from work.
5. Maintain your equipment. Most farm accidents and deaths involve machinery. Make sure your equipment is maintained according to the manufacturers’ recommendations.
6. Know your limitations. Don’t push your mind and body past safe and healthy limits. “Because most farm equipment has been sitting since last fall, farmers may also want to review equipment manuals and inspect their equipment lights to make sure turn signals, flashers and lights work properly,” said Vanasdale. “Safety reflective tape and slow-moving vehicle emblems should also be cleaned so they’re more visible to drivers.”

#### Recommendations for drivers

Drivers should remember to decrease their speed and approach farm equipment with care. They should obey the Rules of the Road. It is illegal and dangerous to pass farm equipment in a no passing zone. Also, farm equipment may be wider than what is visible from behind and it may be difficult to see if traffic is approaching in the opposite direction. The key to safety when sharing the road with farm equipment is to take caution and have patience.

We hope these suggestions give you a good start to making sure you’re doing all you can to keep your community safe this planting season. For more farm safety tips, review COUNTRY Financial Farm Safety Checklists at [www.countryfinancial.com](http://www.countryfinancial.com) or [www.countryfinancialsecurityblog.com](http://www.countryfinancialsecurityblog.com). In the meantime, follow us on Twitter @helloCOUNTRY.



**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



**Travis Heath**  
217-688-2900



**Chris Greenwold**  
217-355-8675



**Keith Garrett**  
217-485-3010





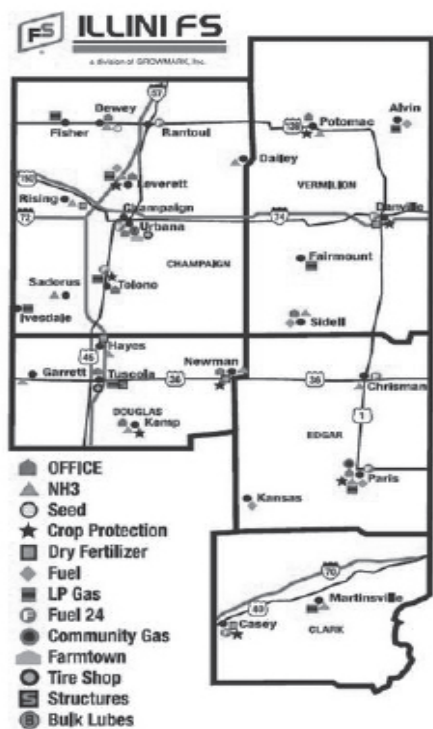
By: Lesley Gooding



hear about wildflowers! When someone creates a pollinator habitat they need to remember it is a long term project.” Why does FS Farmtown believe in helping save our pollinators and building places pollinators can thrive?

- Pollinator populations in the U.S. have fallen for decades.

- ## Looking for an easy project to SAVE THE POLLINATORS? Try this Do It Yourself Project!



To meet today's agronomic and economic challenges, farmers need sound agronomic advice from proven experts who understand their individual needs and farming practices. And that's just what you get with FS Green Plan™ Solutions.

FS Green Plan Solutions is an integrated, solutions-based approach that operates across a number of strategic disciplines. It's designed specifically to help you meet your performance goals by providing you with the best agronomic recommendations and year-round support for your operation.

illinifs.com



Illini FS is pleased to announce that Dr. Howard Brown has joined Illini FS as Manager, Nutrient Management and Agronomic Information. Howard's leadership and expertise in the areas of nutrient management, environmental stewardship and Agronomic Information will provide our farmer owners a valuable resource in their quest to profitably increase yields using environmentally sound farming practices. Dr. Brown will focus on training, On Farm Discovery Trials and bringing value to producers in our five county trade territory. Dr. Brown previously held the position of Director of Nutrient Management and Environmental Stewardship for GROWMARK, Inc.

Dr. Brown received his B.S. Degree from Southern Illinois University (Carbondale, IL) and his M.S. Degree from Purdue University (Lafayette, IN). He has served in various positions throughout his career. He has served as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois for the past 15 years instructing courses, such as *Soil Fertility in Cropping Systems* and *Nutrient Management and Environmental Stewardship* in the Off-Campus Masters Program. Dr. Brown is a Past Chair of the International Certified Crop Adviser Board and serves on many other advisory groups and committees involved in agriculture production and nutrient stewardship.





# "No Foolin!" Prime Timers will Meet April 14 starting at 10 a.m.

Program:  
**CCFB Manager Brad Uken**  
**Japan and Panama Trip**

Music by:  
**Kitchen Band**



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:**  
**May 12**  
**June 9**  
**July 14**



Ag in Sunshine State Continued from pg. 1....

An additional challenge Builda learned of was the issue of labor. Production agriculture in Florida is primarily fruits and vegetables, which are all very labor intensive. To find more help on their farms, farmers are utilizing the United States Department of Labor Temporary Worker program called the H2A program. This highly regulated program provides farmers with contracted temporary workers of various backgrounds.



## Workers harvesting cabbage

Builda says the group visited with three farms who were utilizing temporary workers. "We were able to watch these crews work quickly and efficiently

as they moved throughout the fields" Builda said. "Two of the farmers had tremendously positive comments about the H2A program and the quality of work provided by contracted workers." Builda says that if each worker was employed on an hourly wage contract, they would receive \$10.70 per hour. That is \$2.20 above the state of Florida minimum wage.

Builda says these jobs come with other perks as well. "In addition to pay, each worker receives a place to live, transportation to work, three meals a day, and health care. The workers will be paid for a minimum number of hours each week, even if the weather doesn't cooperate and they are unable to work." Builda said that his Illinois colleagues would often ask their host farmers why with so many perks of the job, so few American or domestic workers weren't utilized. The answer was simple; they don't want to do the work needed on a daily basis.

The group was able to visit a variety of farms while in sunny Florida including Brahman cattle ranches, and a tropical plant greenhouse. Other

farms visited produced sugar cane, celery, various types of lettuce, green beans, radishes, sweetcorn, watermelons and strawberries. Aside from produce and crops, the group visited cattle stockyards and learned about precision agriculture in Florida.



## Sugar Cane Harvester

"The most beneficial part of the trip was understanding that although we might be producing different crops or products, we are in the same industry and strive for the same goal", Builda said as he reflected on his trip. "We need to take time to actively educate and learn about other parts of our industry so that as we sit down for policy discussions we're able to understand how we all fit together", said Builda. He noted that one farmer said he greatly appreciated Illinois farmers coming to learn about Florida agriculture, as he wishes he could learn more about how Illinois raises and produces crops.

Throughout the past few years Champaign County Young Ag Leaders have attended Illinois Ag Industry Tours to Massachusetts, California, Washington State and Arizona, just to name a few. Builda encourages other Young Ag Leaders from Champaign County to pursue these programs in the future.

## Always Stay Current!

If you are ever unsure or curious when an event/meeting will be held, feel free to check out our website! We bring you updated information/times/dates/news on everything that might be of interest to you and your farm.  
**WWW.CCFARMBUREAU.COM**

## CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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And then scroll down until you find COLLETTE Travel and click on "Members Save on Travel" This will take you to Collette's Website for CCFB Members. Once you are there, find the trip of your dreams and take it!



# Connect Hearing

CCFB Members get the hearing loss information you need and save with your exclusive member discount!

If you or a loved one are experiencing signs of hearing loss, you probably have questions. We're here to help.

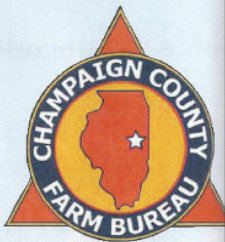
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- Members save a minimum of 40% off list price on any Phonak or Unitron hearing aid(s) that Connect Hearing carries
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- Complimentary initial audiological (hearing) evaluation
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Restrictions: Program Offer cannot be combined with any other coupon discount offer or insurance offer

## The Champaign County Farm Bureau

Proudly Salutes the  
2015 Farm Leader of the Year!  
**Chris Hausman**



District 12 Director, Chris Hausman receives 2015 NewsGazette Farm Leader of the Year Award at a banquet held in his honor on behalf of Champaign County Farm Bureau. Congratulations!



Concertgoers patiently wait in line for their Prairie Farms ice cream after the 2016 CU Symphony Ag Night.



Champaign County Farm Bureau members meet at the Stagecoach Steakhouse for the last Winter Viewpoint meeting, addressing issues in agriculture and the topics covered by CCFB.



Norman Uken and Russel Buhr stand by the I&I Antique Tractor Club McCormick Farmall IH at the CU Symphony Ag Night.



Tamara Nelsen, Director of Governmental Affairs and Commodities at Illinois Farm Bureau, wraps up the 2016 Winter Issue Series on the topic of GMOs. The last event focused on conversations via science, producer and consumer.