



# Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 94, No. 9 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821 September, 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.”

## The 2016 Corn Crop: Still That Good?

By: Emerson D. Nafziger



Above: Corn in China compared to Illinois, with abundant rain and good growing conditions, Nafziger expects the corn to be 150 - 200 bushel range in the China “corn belt”

We can usually point back to the times during the season when the corn crop experienced stress that contributed to yield below what we had hoped for. Problems with emergence, too much or too little water at key times of the season, cloudy weather, hot weather, diseases, insects, and weeds are the “usual suspects” as causes of lower yields. This year, it’s been hard to find any of these in most fields in east central Illinois.

The August 28 crop condition rating has the Illinois corn crop at 85% good or excellent, the highest ever for this late in the season. The August 1 NASS-USDA estimate for the state is 200 bushels per acre. For some reason NASS no longer releases yield estimates by crop reporting district, but we would expect CRD 5 (eastern Illinois) to be a little

above the state average. Fifty nine percent of the CRD’s corn crop is in dent stage, with none yet listed as mature.

This CRD accumulated 2,513 growing degree days from May 1 through August 28; adding some GDD for corn planted before May 1 means the total is approaching the 2,650 or so that earlier hybrids here need to mature. As warm temperatures continue, we can expect most fields to mature during the first two weeks of September. When maturity tracks GDD accumu-

lation like this, it means that plants remained alive to fill kernels to their maximum. Last year the season ended a little early due to heat and dry soils this time of year, and kernel weights and yields were lowered slightly.

Rainfall in August is the major reason this year’s crop has lived up to expectations generated by its outstanding appearance in July. Rain came after a dry start to the month, which brought a lot of sunshine and good filling conditions, and helped limit spread of foliar disease. With a good canopy and little or no moisture stress throughout grainfill, kernel weights should be at or above normal; the high “ear weight” estimate by NASS reflects this. That estimate is really an estimate of expected kernel weight, which is used along with kernel count to estimate yield.

What we consider a normal kernel weight is has changed some over recent decades. The old slide rule yield calculator developed by ag. engineers at the U of I used a default of 90,000 kernels per bushel. That’s too low for most hybrids today; 80,000 to 85,000 would be more appropriate. Still, I’ve measured kernel weights from less than 70,000 to well over 100,000, so it’s still a guessing game to some extent. With good filling conditions, lower kernel numbers will mean slightly larger kernels, and

vice versa. If kernels in dent stage have good depth, 80,000 per bushel is probably a reasonable default this year.

One of the few issues I’ve heard about is a problem of deformed ears in certain hybrids, mostly across Iowa and into Nebraska and northern Illinois. No one seems quite sure what caused this, but I don’t believe we’ve seen it in this part of Illinois. I do not know the hybrids involved. There is a considerable amount of tip-back in some fields, perhaps enough to lower yield. And the windstorm on July 13 flattened some fields, or at least streaks in fields. This occurred after pollination, and plants did not gooseneck up very much. The loss of exposed leaf area will likely mean lower yields from lodging, with more loss the earlier in grainfilling this happened.

There are few things that can affect corn yield this late in the season; it’s basically safe. Stalk strength is good, and even if we get winds that break plants over, combines (operated with patience) can usually retrieve ears from stalk-lodged. One bonus from early maturity is that field drying will be rapid, so it should be possible to wait to harvest until grain moisture is lower, thus saving on drying costs.

So yes, I believe that yields in many fields will reflect the outstanding crop appearance and growing conditions this year. With such high yields in 2014 and in fields where water didn’t stand in 2015, we may not break many farm yield records, but this has been one of the most problem-free crops I have seen in my 35 seasons watching the crop in Illinois.

I was recently in Liaoning Province in northeastern China, part of the “corn belt” of China. The capital Shenyang is at about the same latitude as Chicago; the two are “sister cities.” They have also had above-normal rainfall and good growing conditions this year, and the corn crop there looks very good. They use 22-inch rows and plant populations of about 25,000 to 32,000 per acre, depending on hybrid. They don’t have the best planting equipment, but stands looked good, and they use enough fertilizer (mostly blends, applied with the planter) to have the crop canopy dark green, much like we’ve had in Illinois this year. I expect yields to be in the 150 to 200-bushel range in the better fields.

### Introducing Terri Lynn Nuts and Chocolates!



Cut out this ad and save 10% instantly when you bring it to the Champaign County Farm Bureau. A great, new variety of treats and snacks to choose from salty to sweet, we have it!

10% off applies to Terri Lynn products.

Come by to see our new items today!



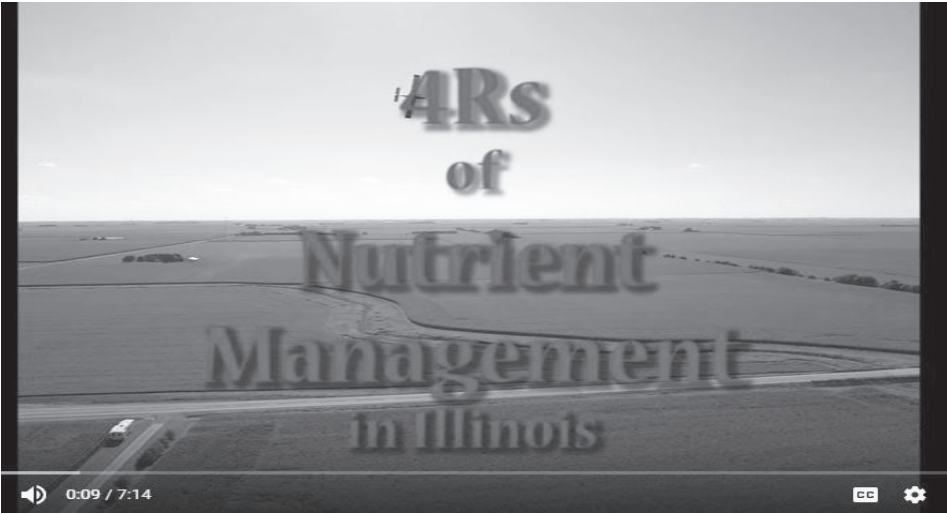
Give Your Driving Skills a TUNE-UP!  
Register for a Defensive Driving Course  
at Champaign County Farm Bureau!



Monday, September 19 and  
Tuesday, September 20  
8:00 AM to Noon  
BOTH days!

Champaign County Farm Bureau  
Auditorium: 801 N. Country Fair Drive  
RESERVATION DEADLINE: **September 12th**  
call: **352-5235** to reserve a spot today!

4Rs Video Series Launch



Champaign County Farm Bureau (CCFB) and Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District teamed up to complete a video project, explaining in full detail the 4Rs role in Nutrient Management. The video was produced with a grant awarded to CCFB by Illinois Farm Bureau. To watch the video got to YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFae686LGhs>



“Check Your Calendar!”

September



8	Full Board	6:30 PM
8	Prime Timers - Marvin Lee	10:00 AM
12	Women’s Committee - Hyvee	9:30 AM
13	WILL Fall Outlook at CCFB Auditorium	7:00 PM
13	Legislative Committee	7:30 AM
19,20	Defensive Driving	8:00 AM-noon
16	PEARS REPORTS DUE TO CCFB	NOON

October

13	Prime Timers	10:00 AM
21	YAL Bonfire	TBD

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



August Recap

President, Chris Murray

As we lead into fall, Champaign County Farm Bureau has been doing their best to “get the message out” about the Ag industry. We were able to serve eight hundred \$.25 meals representing the portion of a dollar a farmer receives from the commodity harvested; AG Facts were handed out with each meal.

We have hosted a number of meetings around the county starting with our annual toolshed meetings. We had great attendance, as we had around one hundred farmers and community leaders that participated in the discussion. There was discussion on the negative effect not having Trans Pacific Partnership has on our industry, and further discussion on a national platform, where there is already heated debate on the 2018 farm bill.

The land use committee held a great morning seminar diving into the history and details on what goes into making our Illinois Farm Bureau policy book. We then heard about the economic benefit from Ag in the state which is over \$121 Billion and Champaign County at \$1.2 Billion, pretty staggering numbers. Concluding our economic benefit presentation, we were led into Howard Brown doing a great job of breaking down his point of view on NLRs. The farming community needs to start implementing more practices and recording what works; it doesn’t make a difference building a history for your own operation. The Women’s committee hosted the Local Ag Influencers; we awarded our friends of agriculture awards to our legislators. Overall I believe we had a very successful end to summer bringing people up to speed on key issues that will be affecting our industry now and in the future.

I hope everyone has a safe and prosperous harvest,  
Chris Murray

Curtis Orchard

By: Lesley Gooding



On September 10, 2016, the Champaign County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee will be hosting children of all ages from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Curtis Orchard in Champaign, IL. The Women’s Committee will have fun and interactive agriculture activities for kids. Kids will leave Curtis Orchard with great information and fun ideas about where their food comes from.

Many of you know Curtis Orchard as the place to go for apples, pumpkins and other fall goodies, but did you know Curtis Orchard is part of an Illinois centennial farm founded in 1873. According to the Curtis Orchard website this farmstead “sustained the Curtis family through corn, soybeans and hogs, but by 1956, the year Paul married Joyce Day of Bement, the acreage owned by Paul Curtis and his father Eugene had become too small to support two families. Paul decided to farm part-time while pursuing a different full-time career. In the early 1960’s he returned to the University of Illinois and completed a PhD in plant physiology.” The pieces began to fall into place for the future opening of what we now know as Curtis Orchard.

**1977 – 700 trees planted on 3 acres.**  
**1978 – 1,700 additional trees planted**  
**1980 – Opened to the public**  
**2016 - You can pick several varieties of apples from over 5,000 trees on 24 acres.**

Do you remember what the Curtis Family Farmstead looked like prior to Curtis Orchard opening to the public?  
CURTIS FARMSTEAD 1957, photo courtesy of [www.curtisorchard.com](http://www.curtisorchard.com)





Joe Burke, Chairman  
Marketing Club

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

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

***Tuesday, September 13th***

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

***7:00 PM***

***Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium***



**Farm Bureau Reminds Us of Family  
During Farm Safety & Health Week**

National Farm Safety & Health Week is September 18-24, and with that comes an important message along with this year’s theme: Farm Safety... a Legacy to be Proud of.”

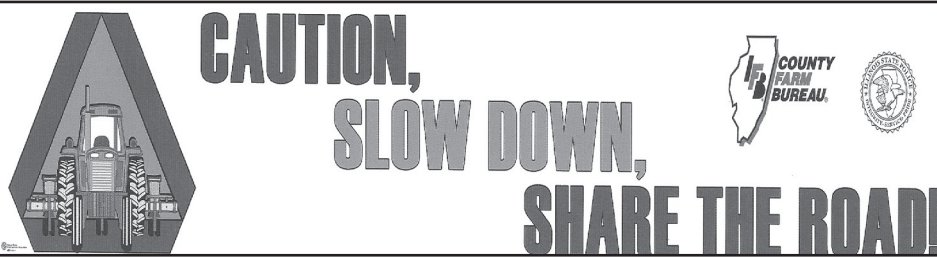
Illinois Farm Bureau and county Farm Bureaus in Illinois are joining the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety to bring the subject to light.

“The theme serves as a reminder that it’s up to us to teach our children and grandchildren to use good safety sense on the farm,” Peggy Romba, Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) Program Manager, reminds us. “This is one of the most important things we can do for them. From generation to generation, farmers learn from those who have gone before them,” she adds.

Romba also points out that if safety starts in the home, then educating agricultural families can have a huge impact on the community and its business. “Entire families are often active in farming, especially on smaller farms that aren't bound by federal and state OSHA regulations. This puts more children, women and seniors at risk than in any other field of work.” Dr. Robert Aherin, Professor, Ag Safety & Health Program Leader at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, said, “In 2015, we had the lowest number of farm deaths in Illinois than we have had for some time, with 11. Our average for the past 20 years has been about 31 deaths per year.” He also pointed out that there were no farm-related grain bin deaths. “Farmers should give themselves a pat on the back, and continue to do what they are doing in taking farm safety seriously. This is proof it is making a difference.” Do you have a safety plan? Do you do safety checks on your farm regularly? Do your tractors have seat belts and rollover protection? Do you use them?

Please take the time to review safety steps with your family and employees. Don’t leave farm safety to chance. Teaching by example is the safest way to work.

Contact your county Farm Bureau for more information on farm safety.



As we approach harvest, it is important to remember that we need to share the road, not only as farmers operating machinery, but as motorists too. A great tip offered to farmers would be instead of letting a motorist decide when the right time to pass equipment would be, try to offer hand signals to motion to a following motorist that is safe/clear for them to pass. Other ways of motioning a safe pass would be pulling machinery over within safety reasons, or motioning that they can pass. A tip to motorists, stay on roads that you are familiar with and do not use country roads as shortcuts. Do NOT shut off lights at blind corners – slow down and yield cautiously.

**At The Farm Gate  
September 2016**

By Joanie Stiers

**Respect rural rules mile by country mile**

I backed out of our attached garage at 5 a.m. a recent morning, only to groan and announce my displeasure to an empty van. Thick fog cloaked the end of the driveway. I proceeded to scout the driving conditions in the first country mile, evading the fog only at the bottom of our road’s steep gravel hill. My incognito minivan, which happens to be painted a color called “predawn gray,” returned to the dense predawn fog again at the neighbor’s farmstead atop the hill on level ground. I tested my brights and dims but ultimately listened to Mom’s voice in my head and turned around. This early morning grocery trip before the kids awoke wasn’t worth risking my life nor that of someone else’s in that 48-mile roundtrip.

Safe rural driving requires common sense, and it helps to have a farm mom like mine who attempts to make safety part of your psyche. As indicated in a servant leadership course, “Sometimes we need to be reminded more than instructed.” This seems an appropriate message as fall harvest begins, which means that big, sluggish farm equipment more routinely shares the roads with quick passenger traffic. The Illinois Farm Bureau’s “Rules of the Country Road” booklet (found at [ilfb.org/safety](http://ilfb.org/safety)) offers a timely reminder of unique rules for unique rural road situations, from absent street lights and narrow roads to blind corners and visibility-inhibiting gravel dust.

On our farm, Mom represents the talking safety manual. She reminds all of us to avoid traveling our farm’s curvy and hilly gravel road at 3:10 p.m. when the school bus makes its deliveries. In other guidelines, don’t pass any vehicle at a crossroad, and never pass a tractor near a field entrance. Watch for deer. Avoid raccoons with brakes, not swerving. I suggest looking three times past the fence and corn field at the country crossroad to the south, where limited visibility may disguise the zippy cars that travel the blacktop. On all unstriped roads, which include many out here, honor imaginary stripes, especially on blind hills.

You can look at crops if you keep an eye on the road. Never drive through water that flows across the road when the Spoon River floods. Respect reflective red-and-orange triangles, the slow-moving vehicle emblems that indicate farm equipment slower than 25 mph. Thankfully, modern farm equipment elevates safety precautions with brighter lights, rotating beacons and sometimes rear cameras.

After harvest, stay put while it snows. Be wary of precipitation near 32 degrees because few roads earn salt out there. In icy conditions, coast slowly down the rural road with the smallest hills, and whenever you can, avoid driving in fog.

**About the author:** Joanie Stiers, a wife and mother of two, writes from rural West-Central Illinois where her family operates a multi-generational grain and livestock farm.

**Introducing Jennifer Boberg, Fisher’s New FFA Advisor**

*Biography Submitted by Jennifer Boberg*



I grew up in Paxton, IL. High School is where my passion for agriculture blossomed when I took Introduction to Agriculture with Mike White. During my time in FFA, I received my State FFA Degree and competed in National Floriculture, Poultry, and Agronomy. Following high school, I attended Parkland College and the University of Illinois through the Parkland Pathways program. While there, I worked for Illinois Crop Improvement Association, testing crop samples for germination rates. I also worked in the University

of Illinois Plant Care Facility, managing and caring for the greenhouse and plants. My favorite work experience and the experience I learned the most from was an internship through the University of Illinois Extension of Lake/McHenry counties. My time in Lake and McHenry counties was spent developing curriculum for a six-week summer garden, nutrition, and media program. We worked with football team members of the North Chicago Community High School. My job was to teach them about gardening and agriculture. At the end of the program, students developed a media project to show the importance of nutrition and agriculture. In college I was also a part of Sigma Alpha Agricultural Professional Sorority and served as second vice president and president of the organization. My student teaching experience was in Sullivan, IL at Sullivan High School with Mr. Don Lockwood. I graduated from the University of Illinois with my Bachelor’s in Agricultural Science and Leadership Education in May 2015. Following graduation, I taught and was the FFA advisor for a year in Windsor, IL before moving to my current position as agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Fisher Jr./Sr High School. I am very excited for the year to come and to be part of the Fisher community.





KIRK BULTA  
Executive Director



MYLA MUNRO  
Earth Partners Coordinator

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# Teens Impacting Agriculture

By: Myla Munro



Dylan Tervan was part of a smaller group of Teen Teachers that created a lesson, activity and snack all around soybeans.

A common view among agricultural groups is that today's consumer is at least three generations removed from the farm. However, there is growing interest among consumers to know where their food originates. In an effort to shed light on this, last summer 4-H Youth Development Educators in Illinois partnered with Ag in the Classroom (AIRC) coordinators to start the 4-H Agriculture Teen Teacher program. The goal was to teach 8-11 year olds using farm-to-table agriculture concepts while providing high school teens experiential leadership experience through planning and teaching lessons. When Earth Partners and Champaign County 4-H collaborated to create, Farm to Fork 4-H Teen Teachers, there were high hopes of impacting youth and inspiring teenagers to advocate for agriculture. "The partnership between 4-H and

Earth Partners brings experts in both youth development and agricultural together to create this dynamic program that offers teens valuable hands on experience that can impact their future. It's exciting to see the teens share their knowledge with young people in their community", commented 4-H Youth Development Educator, Jamie Boas.

Working with FFA Chapters from Rantoul Township High School and Unity High School, 4-H Educator Jamie Boas and Earth Partners Coordinator, Myla Munro brought the teens together to learn about how to be effective teachers and create lessons that were age appropriate, fun and provide education about agriculture and natural resources. The program was popular with the After-School sites and the students that the teenagers taught lessons in both the fall and spring semesters. Topics included, but weren't limited to: soil,

honey/pollinators, horses, dairy, water, pumpkins, vegetables, soybeans, and corn. Each lesson included an activity, craft, and snack related to the topic.

Last year, the program brought together 16 Teen Teachers from Champaign County and impacted 148 youth at four After-School sites within the county. The Farm to Fork 4-H Teen Teachers were also provided an opportunity for career exploration. Unity FFA member, Calli Robinson remarked, "I am now sure that I want to be a teacher. This experience helped me pick my future career path and that's awesome." After a very successful year, the Teen Teachers program will continue in Champaign County for the 2016-2017 school year. In addition to Rantoul FFA and Unity FFA, we've added interested teens from Mahomet-Seymour High School. The group from Mahomet-Seymour is doing something a bit different from their teenage counterparts. They have worked to create programming specifically around one topic, Dairy, that will be taught at a more advance level at the junior high B.L.A.S.T. program! The Teen Teacher program,

now in its second year, is also receiving national attention! Later this fall, Jamie Boas will travel with University of Illinois State Extension Specialist, Bill Million, to present on the success of this state-wide program at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents in New Orleans. In addition, Jamie and Myla will also be travelling to the 2017 American Farm Bureau Foundation annual convention in Phoenix, AZ to showcase the programs influence on the local level! At both conventions, conference attendees will participate in hands-on activities and receive resources so that they can go back and implement similar programs educating about the importance of agriculture and natural resources.

These national recognitions prove that there is a growing need for agricultural education, both inside and outside of the classroom. Everyone from kindergarteners to consumers, should know that their food is responsibly grown and cared for by farmers as it comes from the farm to their tables. Earth Partners and 4-H are excited to be a part of the conversation by helping advocate for agriculture.

## "Team Birdie" Wins Golf Outing

THE CCFB FOUNDATION  
THANKS OUR  
2016 GOLF OUTING SPONSORS!



Champaign Agency

The Atkins Group  
Arends Hogan Walker  
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The Andersons  
Bartell Powell LLP  
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Country Financial – Dan Duitsman  
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Champaign County Farm Bureau  
Farm Credit Illinois  
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Granular  
Chris Hausman  
Hastings CCI Equipment, Inc  
State Representative Chad Hays  
Hickory River Smokehouse  
Illini Fs  
Iroquois Federal  
Country Financial – Bret Kroenke  
Premier Cooperative  
Plunk Brothers Pioneer Seed  
Prospect Bank  
Rabo Agrifinance  
Stone Creek Golf Club



Congratulations to the 2016 CCFB Foundation Golf Outing Champions! Left to Right - Brian Arends, Tyler Uden, Josh Hinds and Adam Sharp.



Sixteen Teams competed in this year's outing. Including the team of (left to right) Mike Madigan, Jim Goss, Brian Stark and Brian McCoy. Mike Madigan of Hickory River Smokehouse also sponsored the noon meal.







**MARK THORNSBROUGH,**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

## Differences in plant health are obvious driving down local county roads. Here are some common reasons and what to do.

By: Dr. Howard Brown

### CORN

- Leaf disease. The unexpected wet weather in July and early August provided an ideal environment for fungal leaf disease development, such as Gray Leaf Spot (GLS). Gray Leaf Spot is a leaf disease that can destroy plant leaf area, minimizing the ability of the plant to fill the developing grain. If the plant loses significant leaf area during this period of time, older plant parts (lower stalk and roots) will be sacrificed to in an attempt to finish grain fill. Gray Leaf Spot is a disease that is favored by extended periods of leaf wetness followed by hot, dry weather. Periods of leaf wetness allows disease spores found on corn residue to splash onto lower plant leaves where they can germinate and grow into mature spores. With the return of dry weather mature spores are allowed to spread by wind to other leaves and to germinate and grow with another period of

wetness. The several rainy periods of July provided a environment for disease development. Loss of leaf area to leaf diseases, such as GLS, may lead to premature plant death and standability issues at harvest. Make time to periodically check stalk quality as the harvest season approaches. Management considerations for the 2017 corn crop would be to select hybrids that demonstrate a tolerance to the disease and/or to consider a timely fungicide application at tasseling (or soon after) if significant disease development is anticipated.

- N Deficiency. There are some fields that exhibit firing of the lower leaves, characteristic of N deficiency. The impact on harvest yield will be dependent upon when the deficiency symptoms first appeared and how far up the plant the leaf symptoms are expressed. If symptoms are isolated to the lower 2-3 nodes and only appeared recently, there may be little to no impact

on harvest yield. If leaves expressed the characteristic inverted “V” down the midrib all the way up to the ear, an impact on harvest yield may result.

- Anthracnose Stalk Rot (Top-Dieback). Anthracnose is a fungal stalk rot and can easily be observed in many area fields. Look for plants that express the death of plant tops (why it’s also called Top Dieback Disease). In most cases a firing of the lower leaves is also characteristic with some green leaves remaining inbetween. It is favored by high-yield environments with plants under stress during grain fill. Plants that have high yield potential but run short of leaf area and/or nutrients needed to finish grain fill usually are affected by the disease. The best defense against Anthracnose Stalk Rot is maintaining plant health with good nutrient management programs and the use of fungicides to minimize leaf-area loss, when diseases are present

and anticipated to be a serious threat.

### SOYBEAN

Soybeans may be taller this season on the darker, higher organic matter soils. The multiple rains some areas received in late July and August enhanced soil microbial activity, increasing the release of unavailable organically-bound N to a plant-available form. This process is referred to as mineralization. Soybean plants likely received an additional dose of N, causing plants to be taller-than-expected but may or may not result in higher-than-expected soybean yields. Nitrogen is a component of vegetative growth (longer internodes-taller plants), the more N that is available does not mean there will be more bushels. Soybean yield is based primarily on number of pods, and not plant height. Shorter plants with shorter internodes (distance between leaves) and more nodes (where pods are attached) will likely result in a higher yielding crop

## Lagoon Crawler Making Waves for Illini FS

By: Lesley Gooding



*Above: Lagoon Crawler used to pull lime from water at a quicker rate, all with a remote control. With enhanced technology, the Crawler can drive itself out of a lagoon once empty.*

Illini FS has purchased a Lagoon Crawler to pull lime out of the lagoon at a quicker rate than previously possible. The Lagoon Crawler is an amphibious pump designed for agitating large lagoons and pumps from the lagoon site. Controlled by a remote, the pump can drive itself into the lagoon, mix the lagoon as a boat, and then drive itself out when the pit is empty. According to Steve Dollins, Illini FS, the Lagoon Crawler is site specific for the West Bradley water treatment facility. The Lagoon Crawler can reach the center of the pond and will be used until the pond freezes, approximately December 1. Dredge boats are currently used at other locations, but Steve says the Lagoon Crawler “is impressive and looks like a dragon in the water.” Lagoon Crawlers were designed with hog facilities in mind, but has been work-

ing very well for Illini FS lime removal. Rounding out the Illini FS line of lime applicators are 4 soft lime units and 5 dry lime units equipped with Auto Steer and Variable Rate Technology (VRT).

### How do four floaters cover the entire Illini FS territory?

A dedicated dispatch staff of four, operators, truck/tanker drivers and the use of technology ensure that customer needs are met efficiently. All the orders from growers go through a centralized dispatch system and are mapped out. Once mapped out, floaters are scheduled to make an efficient use of the applicator and keep road time for the machines to a minimum.

Typically, two machines are at the north end of the Illini FS territory and two machines are placed at the south end. Machines and opera-

tors typically start at sun up. Keeping things moving smoothly requires planning orders a couple days ahead and planning which facility the machines will be closest to at the end of the day.

Meeting customer’s needs is priority number one. Dispatchers have a lot to line up and people to keep up to date so applicators can move from field to field efficiently. What details go into planning an operator’s day? 2016 should be similar to last year in which four machines were in the Illini FS area and 16 trucks with 5,000 gallon tankers (up to 25 tons each) were dispatched each day to keep the applicators up and running. Very rarely did an applicator have to wait on a tanker! To keep things moving dispatch must keep terminal operators in the loop of information so the terminal can plan for how many trucks will be loaded for each machine. Lining up 600 tons per machine per day is no simple task when it equals approximately 75 to 100 loads per day out of the facility. Applicator operators are big

pieces of the puzzle, too. Outfitting applicators with modern technology has made planning out an operator’s day run like clockwork. Each applicator is outfitted with a tablet. Tablets provide information to each operator including number of loads per field, size of loads, rates and VRT files. Operators and dispatch work with real time information sending information back and forth via a web based program letting one another know when field work is complete, how far along the operator is with their day, and if they have time to move to a different field and help out another operator. Transferring data in real time promotes teamwork and streamlined, efficient operations. Illini FS is working hard to meet demands and work efficiently for you!

Illini FS firmly believes that nutrient management isn’t about reducing nutrients in the ground. It is about the 4Rs. Using the Right nutrient source, Applied at the Right rate in, the Right place at the Right time.



*Above: one of four floaters covers the field above with lime, which is applied by rates on the provided map data given to the operator.*





**Vann Parkin**  
Country Financial  
Agency Manager



**FINANCIAL**

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



**Marcia Woolcott**  
Administrative Assistant  
Champaign Agency

# ILLINOIS FARMERS HIT NEW HIGHS WITH DRONE TECHNOLOGY

## Drone Pilots Scouting Fields Faster with UAV's

Following months of drone testing, COUNTRY Financial® is beginning to evaluate how Unmanned Aircraft Vehicle (UAV) technology can improve the claims process for customers.

The organization has licensed pilots on standby to respond to viable crop claims. So far this summer COUNTRY has sent pilots and their drones to dozens of fields throughout the state to scout for storm damage and test the new technology. “For the farmers and landowners who have hundreds to thousands of acres, this new crop scouting technique is speeding up the search process,” said Todd Manning, a drone pilot and crop adjuster for COUNTRY. “Drones can find and locate the hot spots, so we can better determine how much damage a farmer really has.”

Once a pilot gets to the field with their drone, the pair can hover up to 400 feet above the crops and free fly while taking photos and video from the unit. The process unfolds more quickly as the camera can better locate the damage and reveal its scope. “Prior to the use of drones, crop adjusters could have walked fields for hours and sometimes not discover problem areas at all,” Manning said. “Now a scout can determine if a field has been damaged within a matter of minutes.”

COUNTRY is among some of the first crop insurers to receive a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) exemption to test drones. “The FAA wants to ensure drone pilots have knowledge of airspace,” Manning said.

COUNTRY pilots have hundreds of flight hours and years of experience operating manned aircraft. This is only the start of the organization’s drone usage. COUNTRY intends to expand its use of UAV technology and the number of pilots operating drones in order to continue improving the crops claims process for customers.

To follow other topics COUNTRY Financial is covering, follow us on Twitter @helloCOUNTRY.



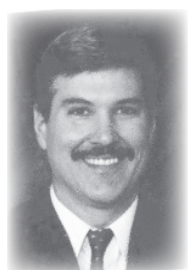
**Travis Heath**  
352-4555



**Keith Garrett**  
485-3010



**Jessie DeHaan**  
352-3466



**Stan Ochs**  
352-3296



**Terry Hill**  
469-9800



**Bret Kroencke**  
359-9391



**Nathan Hubbard**  
892-4479



**Jim Nelson**  
892-4479



**Chuck Rippey**  
586-5030



**Chris Greenwold**  
355-8675



**Dan Duitsman**  
469-2033



**John May**  
352-3341



**Austin Beaty**  
217-352-0012



**Steve Derry**  
352-2655



**Scott Jackson**  
359-9335

# Steer clear from Holiday debt with five tips from COUNTRY Financial®

## The holidays may be months away, but preparing for them now could be key to having a stress-free, debt-free season of giving.

“Think back to last November and December. Try to recall if you had any buyer’s remorse throughout the course of the spending season,” said Joe Buhrmann, manager of financial security at COUNTRY Financial®. “If you tacked on unexpected expenses to your debit or credit card or veered from your shopping list, a little early planning could go a long way toward keeping you on track this year.” What can be even more swaying is the stress of last-minute holiday shopping and the guilt associated with the feeling of not having bought “enough” for our friends and loved ones. People often get the urge to buy and spend more as a way to show loved ones how much they care. This pressure to buy can make even the most steadfast budget crumble like Christmas cookies.

“The feeling of guilt and impulsive spending are common during the spirit of giving. We don’t plan on having a last minute urge to buy, but we can fall into this money trap every time we’re not on guard or prepared,” said Buhrmann. Planning for holiday purchases now is sure to keep you in check come Christmas. But, if you’re not currently thinking about how you’ll swing the extra spending this holiday shopping season, consider these suggestions.

### Five ways to prepare for the season of giving:

**1.** Find extra income. If you find yourself spending more than you make every December – why not work ahead to stash some cash for Christmas? You can do this by selling some of your old or unused items online or through a yard sale. Also, consider picking up a part-time job or sign up for seasonal work for the sole purpose of squirrelling away money for the holidays.

**2.** Steer clear of credit. If you’re short on money this summer and struggling to make ends meet, why not take a hiatus from your credit cards? What better way to get financially fit in time to prepare for increased spending? Use the coming months to pay down credit card debt, set money aside or follow an envelope system to restrict your spending. Then when Hanukah hits you could be in a better financial position to take on the added burden.

**3.** Buy gifts now. It may seem odd, but you could easily start buying out of season items and pack them away until winter. It’s fairly easy to find sweaters, long-sleeved shirts, pants and other winter wear on crowded clearance racks. Why not buy some of these items now at a low price and gift them come Christmas? They’ll still be new with tags and no one will suspect you bought the pieces months in advance and stocked them away for a while.

**4.** Stick to your list. The holiday season is a time of overstocked racks and end caps. It may seem tempting to just buy anything and everything right there on the spot, but if you draw up a list of items in need weeks to months in advance, you can better discover the discipline to stick to the well thought out items you jotted down. Plus, by sticking to previously contemplated gifts, you’ll be able to save yourself money and invaluable time that could be better spent with friends and loved ones.

**5.** If you lack discipline, buy online. Once you know what you want to buy, look online for the best prices possible. Meandering through stores without a clear idea of what you want is a dangerous game to play if you lack self-control. If you don’t have strong boundaries and the ability to say ‘no’ to spending, you could easily give into temptation. Why not shop online and limit your distractions through direct searches and nothing more?

“The holiday season is a time for giving, but it shouldn’t be a time for excess spending and accumulating debt,” Buhrmann said. “Set clear expectations with yourself and be truthful about what you can and can’t afford. Creating a responsible spending plan and sticking to it will make you more financially fit heading into the new year.”

Want to follow other finance topics COUNTRY Financial® is covering? Follow us on Twitter @helloCOUNTRY or read our blog, [countryfinancialsecurityblog.com](http://countryfinancialsecurityblog.com).

**[www.countryfinancial.com](http://www.countryfinancial.com)**



Enjoy the end of summer with Prime Timers  
on September 8th starting at 10 a.m.

Program:

Research on Wildlife -Cassandra Wilcoxon

Music by:

Marvin Lee



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:

October 13 -

Speaker: Joan Jordan: Galapagos Islands /Music: Ryan Express

November 10

December 8



\$8 On Sale Now!

Champaign County Farm Bureau has limited edition microfiber towels for sale! The towels are blue with the CCFB logo, only \$8!!

RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP ONLINE!

CCFB members can now go to [www.ccfarmbureau.com](http://www.ccfarmbureau.com) and click on MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL to pay their dues 24-hours-a-day! Please note that this is ONLY for “renewals.” If the membership is new, delinquent or a reinstating member, you’ll need to contact the office to pay by credit or debit card.

The CCFB Membership  
Benefit List!

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

Need more information?

Call Deidra Ochs at  
217-352-5235 or go to:  
[www.ccfarmbureau.com](http://www.ccfarmbureau.com)

Champaign County Farm Bureau Christmas in Branson  
November 17 - 20

Kick off your Holiday season in Branson with a 4/day, 3/night Holiday trip.

Day #1 - Thursday, November 17:

You will depart Champaign at 7:30 a.m. We will make a stop for lunch \* and then stop at Russel Stover’s Outlet and St. James Winery on the way to Branson. You will arrive at the Grand Country Inn around 4:00 p.m. where you will check in and have a dinner buffet\* at the hotel before going to the Grand Country Jubilee show.\*

Day #2 - Friday, November 18:

You will start the day with breakfast\* at the hotel and followed by a morning show with Doug Gavriel.\* After lunch\* you will see the Texas Tenors.\* You will enjoy Dinner at Pasghetti’s Italian Restaurant\* before going to see Moses at Sight and Sound.\*

Day #3 - Saturday, November 19:

Breakfast\* at the hotel and then you will have the morning and lunch (on your own) to yourself to do some shopping or go down to Old Town Branson or Branson Landing, visit another winery or just spend time visiting before the Daniel O’Donnell show\* and Dinner at Jackie B Good’s\* and then the Duttons show.\*

Day #4 - Sunday, November 20:

Before traveling home you will have breakfast\* at the hotel and Church ; with a couple of rest stops and lunch stop.

Cost per person: Dbl-\$625 Deadline: September 15, 2016

Tour includes: Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Professional Driver, Hotel Accommodations, Luggage Handling, 8 meals and 6 shows. All attractions and meals in bold print and marked with an asterisk\*

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**Tag Out For Safety**

**Disconnect all energy sources.**  
Hint: Label each power source.

**Put on a tag to warn others and identify the responsible person.**

**Only the person who placed the tag can remove it. Hint: Tags should be legible**

What is Tag Out?

Tag Out protects a worker by warning others not to turn on equipment while working inside a grain bin, around augers, or servicing machinery. Tag out is a minimal safety procedure for farmers who are not subject to OSHA regulations. The best practice is to both Lock Out and Tag Out equipment. Those subject to OSHA regulations must follow the complete lockout/tagout (LOTO) standard. To view video go to: [grainsafety.org/resources-2/videos/](http://grainsafety.org/resources-2/videos/)

How does it work?

All energy sources are disconnected and tagged in the off position. Each person involved in the work activity tags out the power so they have control of the energy source. No one else can remove the tag. The tag warns others to prevent them from accidentally turning on the equipment or machine.

EXAMPLES:

#1 Glen entered the grain bin with the unloading equipment running to break the corn loose. When the clog cleared, the corn quickly began to flow, pulling Glen downward until he was completely under the grain. He suffocated and died.

#2 John was by himself cleaning out a grain bin in preparation for fall harvest. John stepped into a sump and fell. Not seeing John, another employee turned on the bottom unloading auger to unload the piles John had swept up. John had his left foot amputated and has not been able to return to work since the incident.

1. **How could these fatality and injury incidents have been avoided?** A warning could have been posted by Tagging out all unloading equipment prior to entering bins.
2. **What hazards can be associated with failure to Tag Out?** Flowing grain in a bin; augers or other machinery that can entangle a worker; electrical shock; gravitational force or being crushed or injured by a release of hydraulics or other energy such as a coil or spring.



Tag Out!

- Identify the equipment/machinery that needs to be shut down and ALL its energy sources.
  - Electrical, mechanical, gravitational, thermal, hydraulic, pneumatic, and chemical.
- Determine if there are any stored energy sources:
  - Capacitors, springs; elevated components; rotating flywheels; hydraulic systems; air, gas, steam, water pressure; piles that can shift; etc.
  - Methods of dissipating or restraining: Grounding, repositioning, bleeding, blocking etc.
- Properly shut down & Tag Out equipment and machines (pull the key when necessary):
  - Notify all other employees about the shutdown.
  - Shut off the energy sources.
  - Apply tags to the energy sources to warn others not to start machine/equipment.
  - After the work is completed notify employees the equipment will be restarted.
  - Remove the tags & begin start up procedures.

When do you need to perform Tag Out?

- Before entry into a grain bin.
- Before repairs, maintenance or service on equipment.
- Before any work that requires a person to place any part of their body in the point of operation.



BENEFITS INCLUDE:

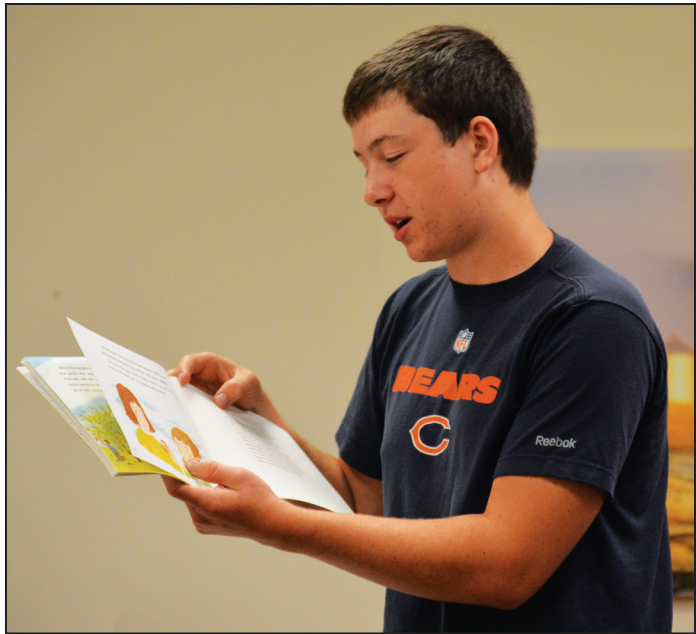
- AG ELECTRIC
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- CONNECT HEARING
- COUNTRY SQUIRE CLEANERS
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- GREEN PURPOSE
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\*BENEFITS SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
WITHOUT NOTICE\*





# August Recap



Unity FFA member and Teen Teacher, Jacob Felsman reads an excerpt to the group about the life cycle of an apple.



On August 25th, three of our legislators received the 2016 Friend of Agriculture Award, on behalf of the Illinois Farm Bureau ACTIVATOR Political Involvement Fund. The Friend of Agriculture Award honors state and federal legislators who understand the importance of Illinois agriculture. Legislators receiving this award recognize the benefits of Illinois' agricultural products and the importance farmers play in providing quality food, fiber, and fuel for our state, nation, and world. Above: Representative Chad Hays receives his award.



Above: Dr. Tom Ramage and Women's Committee Chair Paulette Brock enjoying refreshments at our Local Ag Influencers Night!



Above: Senator Scott Bennett Receives his 2016 Friend of Agriculture Award



Above: Doug Yoder and Lin Warfel at Local Ag Influencers



Above: Howard Brown talks to Jeff Jarboe and Dirk Rice at the Local Ag Influencers event, hosted by the CCFB Women's Committee.



Above: Senator Chapin Rose Received his 2016 Friend of Agriculture Award



Above: Kevin Rund presenting an overview of ILFB's policy pertaining to hot-button land use issues, at our Land Use Discussion.



Above: Larry Martin, Illinois Beef Association, has an interview with WYXY Classic 99.1 Farm Broadcaster, Gale Cunningham.



Above: Team COUNTRY (L to R) COUNTRY Agents: Scott Jackson, Agency Manager Vann Parkin, Kyle Simpson and Dan Punkay at the 2016 Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation Golf Outing, which took place at Stone Creek Golf Course.



On August 22, CCFB held a series of Toolshed Meetings, open to all members in Champaign County. Mark Gebhards, Illinois Farm Bureau Director of Governmental Affairs and Commodities covered topics such as: State and National legislative post-election outlook, 2018 Farm Bill and election implications for agriculture. We greatly appreciate Derek Harms, Ken Dalenberg and Steve Hettinger for letting us host at their sheds.



Above: Howard Brown, Illini FS, presented on Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, at the Land Use Discussion.



Mike Doherty, ILFB, gave a report on the economic benefit of agriculture to Champaign County, at the Land Use Discussion.



Rick Manner, Urbana & Champaign Sanitary District presented different practices to efficiently reuse grey water.