



Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 95, No. 1 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821 January, 2017

“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.”

President’s Award presented to Champaign County Farm Bureau

By: Lesley Gooding



Champaign County Farm Bureau returned from the IAA Annual Meeting in Chicago with the prestigious President’s Award. The President’s Award is presented to the top county in each membership group that achieved membership quota and top rank points for eight program areas. Five membership groups exist throughout the Illinois Farm Bureau,

CCFB is in group five which consists of county farm bureaus with the largest membership. Each fall, CCFB completes and submits to Illinois Farm Bureau a wrap up of programs of work completed throughout the year. These reports are completed in eight program areas including Ag Literacy, Commodities & Marketing, Health & Safety, Legislative/Political Process, Local Affairs, Communication & Promotion, Member Relations, and Policy Development.

Chris Murray, CCFB President, says, “The President’s Award is something we strive to receive every year. We try to reach above and beyond with stellar programs and services. Looking forward to next year we will continue to get the message out to the community about agriculture. It is important to highlight what farmers are doing and how we are being good stewards of the land. We are always looking for ways to communicate our message with our community.”

Renew Your Membership Online!

Farm Bureau members can now go to the Champaign County Farm Bureau website at www.ccfarmbureau.com and click on **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** and pay their membership dues 24 hours a day! Please note that this is only for “renewals.” If the membership is a new, delinquent or reinstating member, you’ll still need to contact the office to pay by credit or debit card.

Doran Wins the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Discussion Meet

By: David Fulton



Above: Lynn Doran delivers her acceptance speech as she was announced the winner of the 2016 Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders Discussion Meet at the Palmer House Hotel during the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Doran will compete on a national level in Phoenix, Arizona the first weekend in January.

At the 2016 Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Chicago, the Young Leaders Discussion Meet offered innovation and thought on issues facing America’s farmers and ranchers. Lynn Doran originally became interested in the competition when our Young Ag Leader (YAL) Reid Thompson, who is the District 12 Young Leader Director, encouraged her to attend/compete at the District Discussion Meet. The District Discussion Meet was held at the Piatt County Farm Bureau office and was comprised of districts 11 and 12, Doran leaving as the District 12 winner.

Reflecting on the district competition, Doran says it was a friendly, fun experience that was inviting, and not intimidating. The event was a great opportunity for networking with other neighboring counties where

Doran was able to learn more about their county programs. Doran mentioned the event provided a foundation for public speaking that helped improve communication skills.

Preparation for the state discussion meet was not a “walk in the park”, as Doran studied for 10-15 hours. Studying general items to be discussed at the meet, Doran said she studied different areas of all the provided topics to know them in-full, being prepared for multiple directions of discussion. Doran restated that this is a discussion, which is won by studying and learning about the topics’ role in agriculture.

While competing in the state discussion meet, Doran noted that she felt stronger as she advanced that day. When she got to the final four, Doran said her hard studying paid off. She felt it was the easiest question/topic of the day, a topic Doran felt she had a great handle on. “The other three competitors were great speakers who shared great ideas”, said Doran.

Winning the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Discussion Meet left Doran with a prize 4-wheeler, which she is excited to receive. Doran will go on to compete in Phoenix, Arizona at the American Farm Bureau Federation Discussion Meet representing Illinois Farm Bureau.

See more on the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on Page 8

ILLINI FARM TOY SHOW

Friday Jan. 6th, 2017 5 PM to 9 PM
Saturday Jan. 7th, 2017 9 AM to 5 PM
Farm Toy Consignment Live Auction Sat. 10:30 AM

Adults: \$3, Kids 6-12: \$2, Under 6: Free
Wyndam Garden Hotel, 1001 W. Killarney St. Urbana, IL 61801
I-74 to Exit 183 Lincoln Avenue

For additional info, contact Lynn Doran at (970) 420-4765 or lynnann85@gmail.com
Sponsored by Champaign County Farm Bureau Young Ag Leaders and Vermillion County Farm Bureau Young Leaders

Send address changes to: CCFB News, 801 N Country Fair Dr., Champaign, IL 61821

Sharing First Experience

with Mike Briggs



CCFB board members and volunteers attended the IAA Annual Meeting that took place in Chicago in December. Mike Briggs, CCFB Board Member representing Ludlow Township, was a first time attendee

at the 2016 IAA Annual Meeting. Mike and his wife made the trip and were able to see how the entire Illinois Farm bureau organization comes together. Mike said “the annual meeting was very well put together! Everyone was very prepared and things went as planned. I really enjoyed listening to the IFB President address the organization, it was great! Attending this meeting was well worth the trip and it would be good for every farm bureau member to experience!” It wasn’t all work for the Farm Bureau delegation. According to Mike, they were able to get out of the hotel for a bit and enjoy the sights and sounds that Chicago has to offer during the holiday season. The Champaign County Farm Bureau delegation also enjoyed a group dinner at Erie Café, a great place for food and fellowship.



January Report

President, Chris Murray

It was a great weekend to be part of the Champaign County Farm Bureau in Chicago. It started off for me serving on the credentials committee, going through the process of qualifications for the delegates and how many delegates appointed from every county is determined. This is based off farmer members or M members, and us having 7 is very influential in the way things pass or fail state wide.

Saturday night Champaign County was awarded the President’s Award which is given to a county based on scores on their programs of work. This award is given for all of the great programs and activities the people in our county organization put together. If not for the hard work and dedication that Brad, David, Kirk, Myla, Deidra and Brenda put into our events, this award wouldn’t be possible. Thank you everyone for the hard work that goes into putting these together to serve agriculture.

Sunday morning YAL awards ceremony, Master of Ceremonies, Reid Thompson gave a lot of Champaign County awards as well Lynn Doran, the star of the weekend, won the very competitive discussion meet and will be representing Illinois Farm Bureau (ILFB) in Phoenix at American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Convention in January. Daniel Herriot was awarded Young Ag Leaders (YAL) Chair Award for our membership group. I was awarded with top recruitment number for YAL for the state.

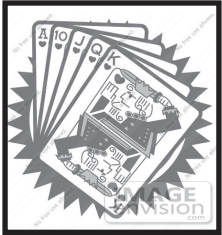
Sunday afternoon was our district caucus which offered a similar trend of recognition for our county. Myla was the highlight for our recognition, she will be going to present at AFBF on her “Teens as Teachers program.” District 12 Director, which has been held by Chris Hausman, has reached his term limit for serving on our state’s Illinois Agriculture Association (IAA) Board. In a contested election, Steve Fourez will be our new representative serving a 2-year term on the IAA Board of Directors.

Sunday night we had our county dinner which was very well attended along with guests Representative Chad Hays and Senator Scott Bennett. Following dinner, we participated in trivia night, and the Champaign Tools brought home some very desired “hardware.”

Monday, we hosted a legislative breakfast in the suite before the delegate session. There was great discussion on the floor. Some clarifications on different resolutions, and a lot of cleanup of different parts of our policy. A new by-law was passed, giving us a new membership group PM (professional member).

Monday night the five presidents representing the county winners from each membership group, got to eat at the Grill Room Chophouse with President Rich Geubert, Vice President David Ericson, and the past Illinois Farm Bureau presidents.

Happy New Year,
Chris Murray



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

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

Mark these dates on your 2017 calendar!!!

January 8
January 22
February 12
February 26
March 12



ALOYTT is open to all Champaign County Farm Bureau members who are interested! These euchre games are a great networking opportunity with other Farm Bureau members and a great way to get out during the winter. Due to the possibility of poor weather, all those who are interested are encouraged to call ALOYTT Chairman, Gerald Henry. Gerald can be contacted by phone at: 778-6157 For any questions please call the Champaign County Farm Bureau office by phone: 352-5235.

“Check Your Calendar!”

January -2017

6-7	Illini Farm Toy Show	Fri: 5-9p.m. & Sat: 9a.m.-5p.m.
9	Women’s Committee	9:30a.m.
10	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 a.m.
12	Prime Timers	CANCELED
12	Land Use	6:30 p.m.
17	Legislative Meeting	7:30a.m.
23	CCFB ANNUAL MEETING (Marketing at 5p.m.)	5:30p.m.

February

2	YAL	6:30 p.m.
6	Marketing Club with dinner (RSVP)	6:00 p.m.
9	Prime Timers	10:00 p.m.
13	Women’s Committee	9:30a.m.
14	Legislative	7:30 a.m.
14	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 a.m.
19	Equine Tack Sale	1:00 p.m.

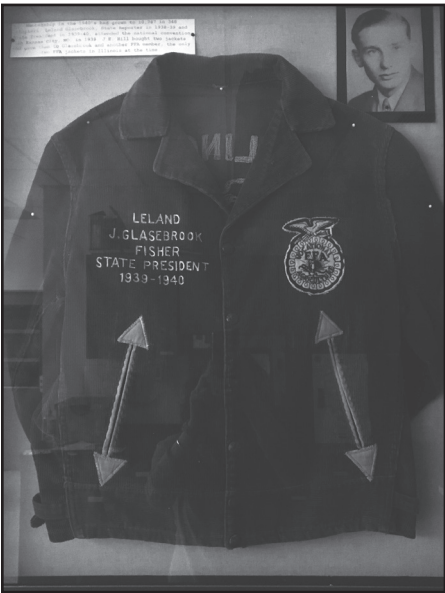


2017 Champaign County Farm Bureau Young Ag Leaders

Above: The Champaign County Farm Bureau Young Ag Leaders (YAL) at the 2016 Illinois Farm Bureau Annual meeting in Chicago at the Palmer House Hotel. From left to right: Reid Thompson (holding newborn son Abe), Heather Thompson, Kirk Builta, Amanda Zwilling, Luke Zwilling, Lynn Doran, Constance Herriott and Daniel Herriott (holding newborn son Colson). For 2017, the new officer team has been elected. Lynn Doran, President; Daniel Herriott, Vice President; Amanda Zwilling, Secretary; Chris Crider, Treasurer. YAL has been an active committee made of Farm Bureau members of 18-35 years of age. They continue to meet on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM.

YAL offers a wide variety of opportunities to members who wish to attend conferences, events, trips and meetings. YAL also offers volunteer opportunities, networking, and social efforts.

Fisher FFA Installs History and Award Wall



The Fisher FFA recently installed an award and history wall in the agricultural education classroom created by FFA member and Vice President, Sophia Hortin. The purpose of the wall is to highlight the history of the Fisher FFA during both its original charter and since its reestablishment in 2011. The wall also gives credit to those students and teams who have achieved honors at the section and state level by displaying the plaques awarded at such events. At the heart of the wall is the FFA jacket of Leland Glazebrook, former FFA member of the Fisher FFA chapter during its original charter. Glazebrook was a significant leader of the Fisher FFA and Illinois State Association, serving as Illinois State Reporter in 1938-1939 and Illinois State President in 1939-1940.

Glazebrook received the FFA jacket, now on display in the Fisher agricultural education classroom, when he attended the FFA National Convention in Kansas City, MO, as he served as Illinois State President. According to the Illinois Association FFA history, Leland Glazebrook received two jackets, purchased by J.E. Hill. Those jackets were the only two FFA jackets in Illinois at the time. Also highlighted on the wall are past advisors, reaching back to Carl A. Bell in the 1930s-40s to current advisor,

Jennifer Boberg. The incredible history of the Fisher FFA during its original charter includes chapter-wide projects, coast-to-coast road trips, father-son banquets, air tours, state representation, the construction of a new agriculture education shop, and so much more! The display is not limited to past achievements. It also includes awards from Section 17 public speaking and horse judging competitions, state scrapbook certificate, and the Fisher FFA re-charter certificate.

Sophia Hortin, who put together the display wall puts it best, “We’re a young chapter, so it may not seem like we have a rich history since we were just reestablished in 2011, but if you dig deep enough for information it’s encouraging and fun to learn about the original roots of which or chapter originally came. That’s why I made the display, to showcase the achievements and amazing things we have done in the past to serve as encouragement so that every year we might build a little more to become just as great a chapter as what Fisher had been in its original years.” So, the Fisher FFA hopes to add to this wall of history and achievements for years to come and for it to serve as a reminder of what was and as inspiration to present and future members to reach for success in all they do.



Leland Glazebrook, former FFA member of the Fisher FFA chapter during its original charter.

Champaign County Farm Bureau Marketing Club Designs New Schedule

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Marketing Club has traditionally met on the first Monday of every month, excluding May and October, at 7:00 PM at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium. Changing the schedule of the Marketing Club and design of the program will bring a new outlook on the club. The new proposed schedule will offer seven meetings, three being a marketing meeting with a marketing analyst followed by a second speaker covering different agricultural topics which will include crop insurance, weather outlook, agronomy updates and insurance policy review. The Marketing Club will continue to host a meeting before the Champaign County Farm Bureau County Annual Meeting and hold two WILL Outlook meetings (spring and fall). The three regular meetings will start at 6:00 PM and start with supper and end at 7:30 PM.

The last meeting of the year will be in November with a review of farm insurance policies.

Marketing 2017

- January 23rd
Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting at 5:00 PM
- February 6th
6 PM - dinner
6:30 PM-7 PM: Marketing
7 PM: Crop Insurance
- March
WILL Spring Outlook
- June 5th
6 PM - dinner
6:30 PM - 7PM: Marketing
7PM: Weather
- August 7th
6 PM - dinner
6:30 PM - 7PM: Marketing
7PM: Agronomy Update
- September
WILL Fall Outlook
- November
Review of Farm Insurance Policies

Stay tuned for confirmed dates and presenters

2017 Marketing Club



Joe Burke, Chairman CCFB Marketing Club

Sharpen YOUR Strategy by Attending These Marketing Club Opportunities:

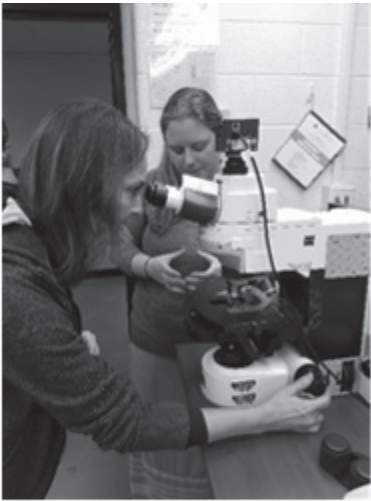
Plan NOW to Attend the 2017 Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on MONDAY, JANUARY 23, when the CCFB Marketing Club presents a special Marketing Meeting beginning at 5 PM at the Pear Tree Estate, Champaign! Featuring Clayton Pope

What’s New in Agriculture at Parkland?



Students have now completed their fall semester and while for some it was their first and for others it will be their last, Parkland Agriculture faculty are grateful for the opportunity to get to know their students. Faculty enjoy interacting with students outside of traditional classroom settings through organized field trips, club activities and our annual Thanksgiving dinner.

News to Share:



University of Illinois Plant Diagnostic Specialist, Diane Plewa, works with Parkland Horticulture student, Lori Runyan to observefungi spores.

Students Expand Knowledge by Visiting University of Illinois Plant Clinic–Parkland Horticulture students learned how to diagnose plant diseases at the University of Illinois Plant Clinic. As part of their curriculum in HRT 211 – Landscape Pest Management, students learn about various plant diseases, insects

Parkland Agriculture students (right) enjoy a nice Thanksgiving Dinner provided by Parkland Faculty in the agriculture department. The staff were able to share the meal with approximately 90 students.



and proper pruning of landscape plant material. Thesesa Meers, Associate Professor of Horticulture, maintains a close relationship with the Plant Clinic in order to provide her students with the opportunity to participate in diagnostic processes used in the national plant clinic clearinghouse system.

Parkland Crop Science Students Travel to Monsanto – Over 30 agriculture students traveled to Monsanto’s Research Center in Chesterfield, MO as part of Parkland’s Introduction to Crop Science course. Students learned about Monsanto’s approach to plant biotechnology and entomology with guided tours through greenhouses, growth chambers and state-of-the-art innovation lab. Monsanto’s Trait and Technology Development Rep Dave Schenaut works closely with Parkland College’s Land Laboratory Director, Jenni Fridgen to provide agriculture students with continued learning opportunities in biotechnology.

Parkland Faculty Provide Students With Thanksgiving Dinner – Parkland agriculture and horticulture faculty (Jenni Fridgen, Theresa Meers and Kaizad Irani) along with the Career Tech Ed office staff provided a full Thanksgiving feast for the agriculture, horticulture, diesel and CNH students prior to Thanksgiving break. This year over 90 students joined faculty and staff to celebrate Thanksgiving and a successful fall semester.



KIRK BULTA
Executive Director



MYLA MUNRO
Earth Partners Coordinator

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Snow Days and Seeds of Opportunity

By: Kirk Bulta, Executive Director

In a hand written letter dated March 2003, Marguerite Winston expressed her interest in providing scholarship opportunities to local students. Her letter, sent to the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation, expressed her desire to “plant seeds” of opportunity for students, just as farmer’s plant in the rich soil of Champaign County.

The letter tells of Winston’s desire to “brighten things up” and make a difference on a cold and snowy central Illinois day. It was that early March snowstorm which inspired yearly donations by Mrs. Winston and the annual scholarship in her name. The scholarship was a fitting tribute to the agriculture industry which Winston, and her husband Willis, were a part of. Mrs. Winston was no stranger

to the CCFB Foundation. Winston’s daughter, Ellen Stonner, was a member of the Foundation’s Board of Directors.

“The trees are bare; it looks as if spring is not in the near future.... The thought crossed my mind, “why don’t you do something that will make a difference and brighten things up? So that’s what I did... I planted a seed.”

– Marguerite Winston in a letter to the CCFB Foundation.
Dated March 2003.

Although these scholarship funds did indeed “brighten” the future of Champaign County students, Mrs. Winston’s influence has extended much farther.

It was Mrs. Winston’s investment in the future that inspired others to become involved in the Foundation’s efforts. Foundation records show that it was in September of 2004, when the Champaign Women’s Club, a group of which both Winston and Stonner belonged, endowed a scholarship with the Foundation. The Champaign Women’s Club Scholarship was formed over a decade ago, and has financially supported the education of a Champaign County students pursuing a degree in agriculture. This \$20,000 investment now represents a nearly century old tradition of philanthropy by members of the Women’s Club.

That tradition of philanthropy

continues as the Champaign Women’s Club honors Marguerite F. Winston with a new gift to the CCFB Foundation. The Marguerite F. Winston Endowment will stay true to Winston’s desire to brighten the world while advancing the Foundation’s mission of educational opportunities in agriculture.

Women’s Club member Pat Carrington tells us that Winston’s lifetime commitment to the Champaign Women’s Club, and our community, has not gone unnoticed. Their club recently voted to honor Winston, and in turn her family, though this gift to the Foundation.

The Foundation Board of Directors and staff appreciate the Champaign Women’s Club’s commitment to our organization and the join Club members in honoring the vision and generosity of Marguerite Winston.

Foundation Launches 2017 Scholarship Program

As demand for agricultural professionals grow, one in seventeen careers in Illinois are directly related to agriculture; and in Champaign County alone, the industry boasts an employment of nearly 2,800 residents. Driven to support an industry thirsty for agricultural professionals, the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation provides scholarships to local students pursuing a college degree in an agricultural or related field of study.

In addition to enrollment at an accredited college or university in an agricultural or related curriculum, successful applicants must maintain exceptional academic performance as well as community and school involvement. Applicants must be Champaign County residents and/or graduates (or graduating High School Seniors) of a High School located in Champaign County. Ultimately, the most qualified applicants will work to make a positive impact on future of the agricultural industry.

Foundation Executive Director Kirk Bulta says it’s important for all college-bound students to consider studying agriculture and applying for Farm Bureau Scholarships. “Agriculture has always been more than combines, corn, and cows. The industry is thirsty for new hires in a variety of different career paths. This year our students are studying food science, engineering, meteorology and other agricultural-related degree paths.”

Scholarships of no less than \$1,000 will be awarded to top candidates. Scholarship applications can be found on the Farm Bureau Foundation’s website and are due no later than

March 1st, 2016. Visit www.ccfb-foundation.com/scholarship to apply.

Additional scholarship opportunities exist for Champaign County students pursuing a degree in agriculture. Children of farm families throughout Champaign, Ford and Vermilion Counties are qualified for the Freese Memorial Scholarship provided by the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Flatville. This scholarship is administered by the CCFB Foundation and awarded by the Church. The Freese Scholarship applications can be found on the CCFB Foundation website at www.ccfbfoundation.com/scholarship. The Illinois Farm Bureau Foundation also has an extensive list of scholarships available to agriculture leaders. These opportunities can be found at www.iaafoundation.org.

Volunteers Needed!

Earth Partners is looking for individuals willing to become an “EP Pro”.

An EP Pro is anyone that is willing to share their time, passion and agricultural expertise with Champaign County students! Volunteers might be farmers, agribusiness professionals, retired teachers or high school FFA members.

Those interested in volunteering will take part in training designed to help 1st—4th grade students understand the role of farming through hands-on and engaging lessons. Each presentation fits within the curriculum at the intended grade level while teaching about agriculture’s importance in our daily lives.

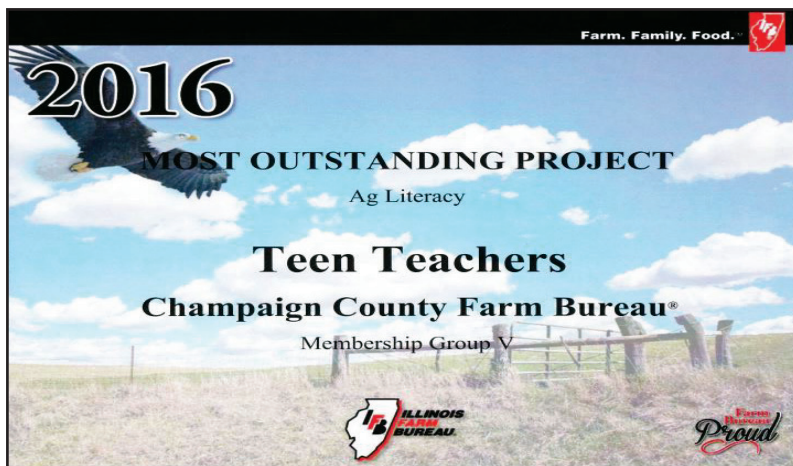
This new programming effort will be piloted at select Champaign County schools starting in February 2017.

Contact Myla at 217-352-5235 or myla@ccfarmbureau.com to RSVP and join us for training on either Monday, January 16 from 1 – 3pm or Wednesday, January 18 from 6 – 8pm at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Office.



Earth Partners Recognized by Illinois Farm Bureau

Earth Partners Coordinator Myla Munro receives recognition from Illinois Farm Bureau’s District 12 Director Chris Hausman at the State organization’s annual meeting in December. Earth Partners received an outstanding program award for their Teens as Teachers initiative which places High School FFA members in elementary school classrooms.





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MARK THORNSBROUGH,
GENERAL MANAGER

Illini FS Nutrient Stewardship

By: Howard Brown

The end of a calendar year brings with it reflection on what was accomplished with nutrient stewardship. Taking inventory of what worked, what didn't, and what remains to be discovered helps us with the planning process with the start of a new year. It is about charting the course for continued learning and how to improve nutrient stewardship through farm profitability. Sustainability is possible through profitability. A look back over the year helps us appreciate all that was accomplished, which helps define what is yet to come. Here is a list of several project over the past year. Although not inclusive of all stewardship projects or events, it provides a look at the emphasis production agriculture has placed on nutrient stewardship in East Central Illinois.

Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC). A total of 36 projects related to nutrient research and stewardship were submitted for consideration in October, 2016. Of the 36 projects, 17 were projects seeking renewal (multi-year projects) and 19 new submissions. All the renewals were awarded funding for 2017 and 6 of the new submissions also received notice of funding for 2017. No other state in the Midwest offers such a program that supports production agriculture research and/or Outreach efforts. Hats off to those dedicated individuals and farm organizations that made the Nutrient Research and Education Council Program possible as well as the council members that dedicate time to making the decisions on which projects to fund. Hats off to the farmers of Illinois that fund the program through the fertilizer check-off. Everyone's investment will continue to demonstrate agriculture's commitment to improved nutrient stewardship.

Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association (IFCA). The first local Maximum Return to Nitrogen (MRTN) recommendation will be available to Lake Springfield area farmers for the 2017 corn crop. The "first-of-its-kind" local N recommendation was made possible through the effort of IFCA and the Department of Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois as well as financial support of Springfield City Water, Light and Power and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Work is underway in other local priority watersheds to "localize" similar N rate calculations. Visit www.ifca.com and click on "Keep It for Our Crop" for more information about local MRTNs and other stewardship efforts offered through IFCA.

Illinois Farm Bureau and GROWMARK Inc. are working with 14 county Farm Bureaus and 11 FS companies to demonstrate local nutrient stewardship. The Four R For You (4R4U) pilot program focuses on field demonstrations and studies to provide practical solutions and information to local farmers. The four Rs refer to the right source and rate of fertilizer applied at the right time and place. Visit www.ilfb.org and search for "Nutrient Pilot Program" for more information.

Illinois Farm Bureau Nutrient Stewardship Grant Program. Eighteen Illinois county Farm Bureaus have been awarded grants under Nutrient Stewardship Grant program. Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) has awarded the grants – totaling more than \$99,000 – for the second consecutive year to help promote local nutrient stewardship, soil health and water quality projects.

Illini FS and Nutrient Stewardship. Illini FS will be working with Champaign County Farm Bureau and a pilot group of farmers with a new Nutrient Stewardship Project. The project revolve around the four pillars of the Illini FS Nutrient Stewardship Program, Assess, Plan, Learn, and Commit. The goal of the project is to refine the program for a full launch into the 2018 growing season. The program is designed to help local farmers create their own Nutrient Stewardship message, a message that will help define individual efforts to improve nutrient stewardship while focused on farm profitability. Illini FS has also launched a program to work with local high school ag teachers and ag students to emphasize efforts to improve nutrient stewardship at the farm gate and to make the students a part of the learning and outreach efforts. Watch for more information about how Illini FS is working with our young, future leaders of production agriculture. Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist to learn more about our Nutrient Stewardship effort and how we can help build the farmer's Nutrient Stewardship Message.

Is there more to do? You bet! It is one thing to create an idea that has hope of improving nutrient stewardship and farm profitability, it is another to have farmers adopt and perpetuate it as a contribution to their farming enterprise. We at Illini FS are proud to serve area farmers and will strive to deliver value through products and services as well as an emphasis on maximizing input utilization, optimizing harvest yield, and minimizing environmental impact (M.O.M.). When we focus on M.O.M., good things happen. :-)

Energy Market Update

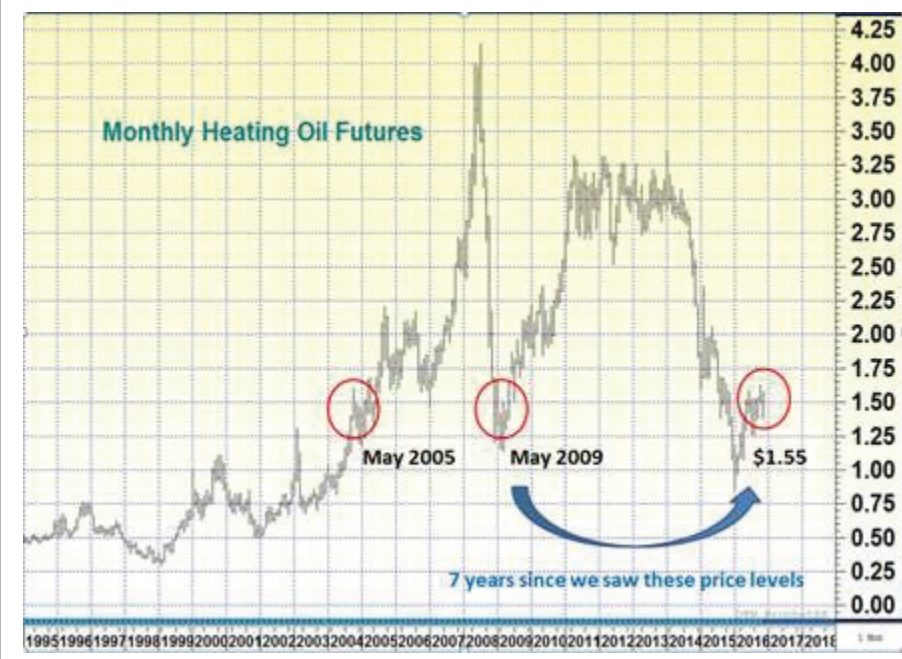
with Bridget Chinowth, Energy Analyst, GROWMARK, Inc.



After a lull in holiday trade through the first of the year, look for a pull back in energy markets during January or February. Spring weather allowing farmers to get into the fields typically sparks a strengthening in the market come March or April. Now through Valentine's Day is a great time of the year to get your energy contracts in place. OPEC has been in the news lately, agreeing to cut production. If OPEC follows through with a cut in production in January we could see an increase in the price of crude oil. We will be keeping a close eye on OPEC and the markets.

Looking at the big picture, there are still very attractive prices if you need to contract or layer.

For all your energy needs contact Chris Olson,
Energy Marketing Manager-Illini FS, at 217-693-5947.





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Country Financial
Agency Manager



FINANCIAL

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT



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352-3466



Stan Ochs
352-3296



Terry Hill
469-9800



Bret Kroencke
359-9391



Nathan Hubbard
892-4479



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CROP HAIL DIVIDENDS

Crop hail policyholders to receive more than \$1.7 million in dividends

COUNTRY Financial® will return in excess of \$1.7 million in dividend payments to more than 10,000 crop hail customers in Illinois. Come 2017, policyholders will receive an 11.18 percent dividend based on the premium they paid on their 2016 crop hail policy. The amount of each dividend check will vary depending on the amount of crop hail coverage each policyholder had during the 2016 crop season. The payout illustrates the extended value COUNTRY Financial offers with crop hail insurance. “What a great way to end a favorable fall for Illinois farmers,” said Sheri Bane, vice president of Commercial/Agribusiness Underwriting at COUNTRY Financial. “Our continued financial strength and favorable weather made this dividend possible.” COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company® is the largest crop hail insurer in Illinois, providing crop hail protection to more than three million acres of Illinois crops valued at approximately \$1.9 billion



Chuck Rippy
586-5030



Chris Greenwold
355-8675



Dan Duitsman
469-2033



John May
352-3341



Austin Beaty
217-352-0012



Andrew Deedrich
359-3941



Steve Derry
352-2655



Scott Jackson
359-9335

SPOTLIGHT

COUNTRY Financial Representative

Steven Derry



Steve Derry with sons Michael (left) and Ryan (right) on the golf course

In his hometown, Steve Derry has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative for 24 years serving the people of Champaign, IL. Steve is married to his wife, Mary Joe, and has two sons, Ryan and Michael. Steve double majored in business and music and played trumpet with several local bands and recording artists between the mid 60’s and 70’s. Before Steve started in insurance, he worked with an engineering firm and helped design the Clinton power plant. In Steve’s free time, he enjoys golfing, composing music and traveling. With an impressive track record on the course, he has golfed all around the world, including St Andrews in Scotland, Hawaii, and Pebble Beach to name a few! Enjoying travel, Steve has been able to see the sights and visit various countries throughout the years. Initially getting into the business to help others, Steve has been working in the insurance business for over 30 years and he continues to enjoy interacting with new and existing clients. Steve likes to meet regularly with clients to review coverages and complete a thorough financial plan. Regular client meetings ensure coverages are correct and give clients a chance to review their financial goals and security. Steve says “My number one goal in working with clients is to help them achieve financial security. Working with COUNTRY Financial is a great choice because we have very strong, experienced Financial Representatives. As we head into 2017, please take time to sit down with me, face to face, so we can look over your goals and current coverages.”

www.countryfinancial.com

January Meeting - CANCELED

Join us in February!

Due to typical inclement weather
we have canceled our
January Meeting



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 2017:
February 9
March 9
April 13

Start 2017 by Saving with our Membership Benefits!

Local data analytics
company gives back

By: Todd Weitekamp

It has been another great year at Agribile. They have seen continuous growth first-hand and have experienced a great deal of success. To show their appreciation, they want to give back a little extra this year by offering Champaign County Farm Bureau members a free subscription to the Morning Farm Report 2017 Grower AgriBundle. Along with a free subscription (a \$2300.00 value), they are offering 10% off any additional items/tools that are offered. Products such as Agribile's Crop Copter Agribundle (Drone and software package) would qualify for the discount.

Agribile's Morning Farm Report 2017 Grower Agribundle is a software package that provides insights to help growers make decisions throughout the growing season. Accurately predicting weather and

giving the grower a two-week lead is their goal. For the past decade, long-range weather modeling has been the primary focus. By taking many years of weather modeling experience and tying it to plant growth and nutrient use, they can accurately provide the grower with actionable information on a daily basis, two weeks out. Now that is different!

Tools such as Agribile's Advanced Nutrient Engine and Spray Smart are just two of the key features growers utilize and talk about on their farms. One of the greatest mysteries we wonder about throughout the growing season is knowing how much of the nutrients we applied to the soil are being used or are available to the crops. Math, science, and years of experience come together at Agribile to deliver insight on a daily basis as to what is happening below the soil surface. The days of fertilizer application are changing, and tools such as the Advanced Nutrient Engine will help growers make those responsible and sustainable decisions.

With the release of Dicamba-tolerant soybeans, reliable technologies to help chemical applicators are becoming increasingly important. Having the ability to accurately predict temperature inversions is just one of the valuable features of Agribile's Spray Smart. How can that be done? It's all about experience. Agribile has four atmospheric scientists and three meteorologists on staff under one roof. Providing quality data is what they work at each day. Hour-by-hour forecasts give growers 3+ days of lead time so they can plan the spray pass and ensure proper application.

Agribile is a data analytics company that develops web-based software to use on your farm. The truly unique part is they are a company staffed with people with many years and generations of farm experience. The CEO, Chris Harbourt, came from a potato and sod farm in New Jersey. Many of the employees on the science and development teams at Agribile come from family farms and understand how the products they develop are going to be put to use on your farm. Two Champaign County Farm Bureau members are employed at Agribile and are working on Sustainability, Sales, and Market Development. That truly is a difference between Agribile and other companies in the ag data world.

It truly is exciting having a company such as Agribile located right here in Champaign County on the University

of Illinois campus. Growth within Agribile has been fantastic in 2016, so giving back to growers in the local community is important. Get started today and take advantage of their 2017 Grower AgriBundle offering! Signing up is simple. Go to MorningFarmReport.com and click on the "Special Programs" button. Look for the Champaign County Farm Bureau button and follow the quick and easy steps. If you have questions, reach out to Todd Weitekamp (217-202-5946) or Luke Zwilling (217-218-3565).

Huey's Home Medical is excited to become a part of CCFB's Local Member Benefits. Opened by Lisa & Huey Robinson 12 years ago after Huey had received some feedback that a small business that would take care of patients with personal care and attention would be very beneficial to the Champaign Urbana and surrounding communities. Huey's Home Medical was decided on for the name recognition of his late grandfather Hughie Rasner who had started and ran Huey's Store of Urbana for many years and felt the population base of our potential clients would be able to reflect on the "good old days" as an ice breaker, and that has proved to be exactly right!

Huey's Home Medical have been doing home medical care for respiratory, CPAP as well as hospital beds wheelchairs, walkers and bath safety ever since. We are hoping Farm Bureau members will visit our BRAND NEW beautiful showroom to see all things to keep you safe and comfortable in your home as well as working in the community caring for people in need. We offer home care companions who are highly trained and go thru a very lengthy screening process to insure our clients and their families' complete safety. Those same staff members have access to years of experienced healthcare technicians, nurses and doctors. Thankfully we care for people in such a thorough and inclusive fashion that we are always growing our staff as well as our patient base.

Huey's Home Medical is happy to offer CCFB Members \$100 off Private Duty Care of DME (Durable Medical Equipment) purchase of \$2,000 or more. Please call 356-4839 for more information or stop by the showroom at 2024 Glenn Park Drive, Champaign.

Some CRAZY FACTS shared by Huey's Home Medical: 10,000 people turn 65 per day. The aging population will also double by the year 2040. The advancements of healthcare and education of healthy living via the electronic era will make it so that we are going to need to do some drastic changing in our mentality to not be overwhelmed with the growing needs of our seniors that will live longer than their parents did. New homes with technology and advanced methods of tracking movement or falls is on the rise. We are studying the benefits of community based living ranging from the basic care being resident based with minimal services, all the way to end of life inclusivity with gardens, healthcare spas and memory care units included. Some homes are built with reminders of medications, controls for lighting at night by motion sensed switches, and even an alert to the family if a person has been sitting on the toilet to long or not moved out of bed. It is going to be an amazing growth in all things healthcare

with shortages to care for aging seniors if the growth of health care careers does not keep up the pace and increase it soon. There are already shortages in healthcare candidates and it will continue to be so if the changes are not being recognized. So thank you for your time and attention and please call Huey's Home Medical soon to find out more details on what they are offering for CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU Member's and how they can help you and your loved ones.

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

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
FARM BUREAU NEWS

(USPS 099-840)

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE -- \$3 PER YEAR

Periodicals Postage Paid at Champaign
(ISSN 1078-2966)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to "Farm Bureau News" 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Ste. A, Champaign IL 61821-2492

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Champaign County Farm Bureau Wishes You and Your Family a HAPPY New Year!

Resolution Submittal Outcome

By: Lin Warfel

My year and a half study of 'creativity and innovation in education and business' generated my idea to get discussion going on the topic, and Illinois Farm Bureau is the largest gathering of policy makers in the state other than the legislature! Many school board members, and spouses of school board members come to Chicago for the annual meeting.

The key initial group at CCFB is the committee that puts together tool shed meetings. Ideas are sifted from what surfaces at those, and those ideas get passed on to the legislative committee and board. That is more sharing of an idea. Submitting the idea to the Tentative Resolutions Committee of Illinois Farm Bureau brings more consideration, more discussion. The idea was accepted, but how to get wording right for policy was a challenge. The subcommittee passed it on to the full TRC, and approval for presentation to the 346 delegates...

The submittal on Civics was generated by a recognition of how civics education has changed in our schools. My dad's high school civics textbook, late 1920's, was a shocker! Much more involvement of students with government, starting with village boards. Studies on knowledge of significant aspects of our government show poor understanding of even college students. Step one of a problem is to make people aware of the problem, identify it.

While CCFB asked for a survey, the TRC amended the submittal by only asking for 'increasing engagement of students in local, state, and federal activities in an effort to gain a better understanding and knowledge of the political process and the importance of civic engagement.'

Both policies were approved by the Delegate Body without discussion. Now part of IFB policy, Officers and staff of IFB will work with legislators and other leaders to draw attention to the issues

Interested in submitting an idea? There are a few opportunities throughout the year! Look for our Winter Viewpoint meetings and Toolshed meetings.

THANK YOU!



Champaign County Farm Bureau wishes Steve Ayers a happy retirement! We appreciate all of his help and service over the past years! Steve retired at the end of November from Champaign/Ford/Iroquois/Vermilion Extension.

Registration Deadline:
MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017

**The 105th
Champaign County Farm Bureau
Annual Meeting**
Monday, January 23, 2017 -Dinner begins at 6 p.m.



Pear Tree Estate
2150 CR 1000 E
Champaign, Illinois
Cost: \$15 per person



Marketing Meeting
beginning at 5 p.m. at the Pear Tree Estate, Champaign!
Featuring Clayton Pope, Clayton Pope Commodities

Return your check with this order form to: Champaign County Farm Bureau
801 N. Country Fair Drive - Champaign, IL 61821

Name: _____
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Equine Garage Sale



Where: Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium
801 North Country Fair Drive
Champaign, IL

When: Sunday, February 19, 2017
1 PM - 4 PM

Great for all horse owners!

Tack! Saddles! Blankets & Coolers!
Clothing! Boots & Shoes! Breyers!
Books & Magazines! And so much more!

Interested in selling at this event?

This sale is by table rental only. No commission will be charged.
Eight-foot tables are \$10 each, paid with registration.
Registration forms are at www.ccfarmbureau.com

Questions?

Contact David at the CCFB office (217-352-5235)
Email: David@ccfarmbureau.com

Sponsored by: Champaign County Farm Bureau Equine Committee



A huge thanks to Chris Hausman who has retired as our District 12 Director! Chris has been very dedicated to District 12 and serving Champaign, Douglas, Vermilion and Edgar counties.



Congrats to Daniel Herriott, who received the outstanding Young Leader Chair Award for Group 5 at Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Chicago!