

Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 95, No. 2

801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821

February, 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."

The Champaign County Farm Bureau 105th Annual Meeting *Today's Ideas are Tomorrow's Solutions!* *By: Lesley Gooding*

Announcing Deputy Bryan Malloch as Champaign County Farm Bureau Deputy of the Year!



David Erickson, Illinois Farm Bureau Vice-President, was the featured speaker at Champaign County Farm Bureau's 105th Annual Meeting held on January 23rd at Pear Tree Estate. David Erickson was very complimentary of Champaign County Farm Bureau Members and all the work they do to stay involved at the local, state, and national level.

His speech was a fun, light hearted speech that evoked many thoughts about farm bureau involvement and what we can do to make the Farm Bureau better in the years ahead. David Erickson and his family are puzzle enthusiasts so it came naturally to him to compare Farm Bureau efforts to putting together a puzzle. Mr. Erickson said, "Similar to a puzzle, what we do in the Farm Bureau is solve problems, meet challenges, and seek solutions. We must sit down and figure out how to put the puzzle together."

What is the most important part of a puzzle? David Erickson believes the box is a vital part to putting the puzzle together. Find out what you are trying to do, what is the ultimate goal? Tying all the pieces together starts with finding out what problems the Farm Bureau is facing ahead of time. What is on the minds of members? How do we prioritize these issues?

Have you ever been trying to complete a puzzle, staring at the same pieces for a while, but when you get up and move to tackle a different part of the puzzle, new pieces might jump out at you? Agriculture and the Farm Bureau are similar to puzzle - Everyone has a different take, a new view helps

us see things in a different way. David Erickson pointed out "it is good when people with different perspectives come up with different ideas and solutions." Teamwork matters! Working in an organization or at home on a puzzle, working together gets things done. Each piece of the puzzle plays an important role just like every person in an organization is just as important, but no more important than anyone else. A passion of Mr. Erickson's is policy. He loves discussing new policy, hearing other's opinions, and different points of view. The Farm Bureau's Policy is, according to Mr. Erickson, "evolutionary, it grows with our members. A history of generations is behind Farm Bureau policy."

Putting pieces of the puzzle together takes organization, planning, individual skills, and dedication. David Erickson says "Set a good example by what you do and you will influence people far more than by what you say! This room is full of people who are great examples of how you make an organization work. Organizations stand the test of time because of the people." Charging forward David Erickson encouraged current volunteers to bring more people into the mix and to stay dedicated to agriculture!



Champaign County Chief Deputy Allen E Jones had the honor of presenting Champaign County Deputy Bryan Malloch with the Deputy of the Year Award at this year's Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. The Deputy of Year Award is presented annually and is awarded based on three criteria
1-Performance & Duty
2-Demeanor
3-Self-Improvement Efforts.

During the award presentation a statement was read by Deputy Jones citing Deputy Malloch's co-worker Sergeant Nicki Bolt. Sergeant Bolt stated "I am always confident Deputy Malloch will handle calls appropriately and be a positive reflection of the Sheriff's Office."

Deputy Malloch is a Champaign County native and the son of a retired law enforcement officer. Deputy Malloch graduated from Champaign Central, Parkland College, and the University of Illinois. Prior to beginning his career in law enforcement, Bryan worked at the Mahomet Area Youth Club. Bryan joined the Champaign County Sheriff's office in 2012. Bryan and his wife Erica reside in Savoy with their two children.

**Congratulations to
Deputy Malloch!**

Thank You Unity FFA!!



Don't Forget!

The Equine Committee garage sale will be Sunday, February 19th. This event will be held at the CCFB building and will start at 1:00 PM and goes until 4:00 PM Net cash farm income is down 46% in the last 3 years. That has led to Chapter 12 bankruptcies on family farms

Thank You to Our Retiring Board Directors!



Bev Ehler, Rantoul



Jeff Fisher, Tolono



Daniel Herriott, YAL



Jacob Kesler, East Bend



Mark Baird, South Homer



February Report

President, Chris Murray

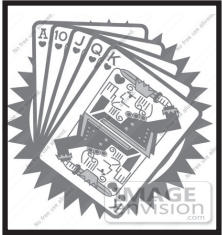
January had a lot of rotating parts that made for a very successful finish to the 105th year of Champaign County Farm Bureau. This is the time of year when we have to say “good bye” to some great township directors who have served our county Farm Bureau for three to six years. They, and I hope, will continue to serve Farm Bureau and agriculture with their strong leadership in the future. The annual meeting went off without a hitch, we had a great turnout and we appreciate all of the members and special guests who took time out of their busy schedules to spend a couple hours with us to find out what is happening in our organization.

Since we do have term limits and we had great directors that served their term, we have five new directors that have agreed to take on the challenge of serving you, our members. It is great to constantly be getting fresh ideas that keep our organization moving forward. David Erickson, Vice President of Illinois Farm Bureau, was our keynote speaker and he mentioned a very good point. A group of people can be working on a problem for a long time and if you switch a person or two around, it may be that new perspective you need to figure out the problem.

Each year in late January, early February President Guebert has district president roundtables to gain sense of what hot topics are going on in their region, I attended the one held by the DeKalb Farm Bureau. It was a great opportunity to get a different perspective from twelve presidents, out of our area, to gain some thoughts on what is happening outside of the normal East Central Illinois issues.

It is my pleasure to serve the county for another year as president. I look forward to tackling a lot of the issues that will come up over the next year that will affect our county. Hopefully we can all work together to tell our great story of agriculture and the great things that make our communities prosper.

Sincerely,
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!!!

February 12
February 26
March 12



FarmWeek February 20th

Look in your issue of FarmWeek on February 20th for a copy of the Illinois Farm Bureau policy insert!

“Check Your Calendar!”

February -2017

13	Women’s Committee	9:00 AM
14	Legislative	7:30 AM
14	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 AM
16	Full Board	6:30 PM
17	Crop Meeting	8:00 AM
19	Equine Garage Sale	1:00 - 4:00 PM
28	YAL Food Repack	5:30 PM

March

2	YAL Meeting	6:30 PM
4	CDL Prep Class	7:30 AM
9	Prime Timers	10:00 AM
13	Women’s Committee	9:30 AM
14	Legislative	7:30 AM
14	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 AM
28	Women’s Committee Spring Fling	10:00 AM

Join the CCFB Women’s Committee

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee is open to all women members of the Farm Bureau. The women’s committee meets every second Monday of the month (except May and October) at 9:30a.m. with lunch to follow, February will be a potluck (bring a red, white or pink dish to share). The Women’s Committee is highly involved in education and awareness, typically youth and consumer education.

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee is working to help the Farm bureau raise funds to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for the building. As some may know, these machines are very costly and require some maintance. Donations can be made with any CCFB Women’s Committee member. After your donation, you will get a cutout of a person to sign your name to display your support! Stop by the Champaign County Farm Bureau Office today!



Upcoming Trip!

March 28 & 29 - Petersburg, KY to the Creation Museum & the Ark The history of the Bible vividly comes to life at the world-class Creation Museum. As you enter the Time Tunnel, you’ll be transport-ed back 6,000 years to the dawn of time as you begin your walk through biblical history. You’ll encounter a realistic Garden of Eden, animatronic Noah, Flood dioramas, and stunning video displays throughout your journey. Other exhibits include a fascinating insectarium, sculpted dinosaurs of all kinds in the Dino Den, a full-size Allosaurus skeleton, and much more. Ark Encounter features a full-size Noah’s Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, this modern engineering marvel amazes visitors young and old. Ark Encounter is situated in the beautiful Williamstown, Kentucky, halfway between Cincinnati and Lexington on I-75. From the moment you turn the corner and the tower-ing Ark comes into view, to the friendly animals in the zoo, to the jaw-dropping exhibits inside the Ark, you’ll experience the pages of the Bible like never before. We will stop on our way home at the Beef House in Covington IN.

Cost per person: \$225 per person (Dbl) \$295 per person (sgl) Dead line: February 27, 2017

Trip includes: transportation, hotel, tour of the museum & the ARK, 1-lunch, 1-breakfast, 1 dinner (lunch on 2nd day & dinner the first night is on your own) there are several places within walking distance of the hotel to eat at or the hotel restaurant. Hotel includes cocktails from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Snacks will be provided on the bus.

2017 Marketing Club



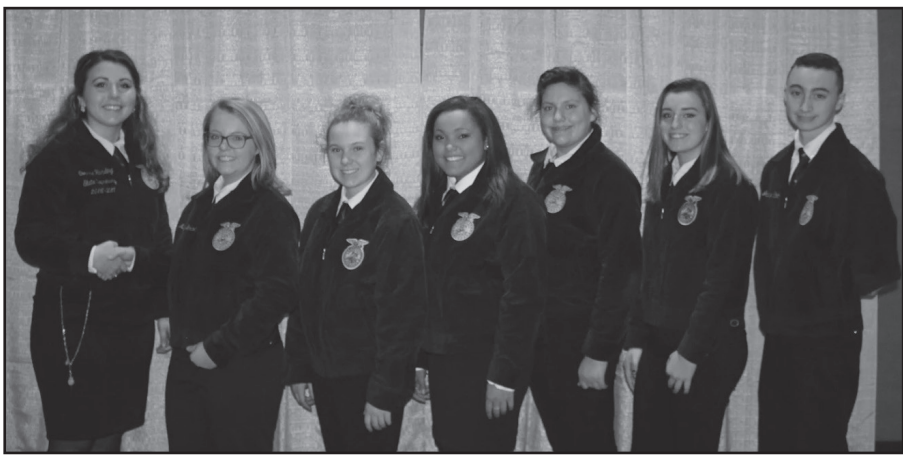
Marketing Club for :

**Joe Burke, Chairman
CCFB Marketing Club**

***Date to be determined
WILL AM 580
Spring Outlook Panel***

Stay Tuned!

Leadership Development with Unity FFA Chapter



Members who attended 212 conference (left to right) State FFA Secretary Corrine Harding, Maggie Woodworth, Kylee Turner, Savannah Hughes, Morgan Lybarger, Savannah Meneley, and Jaxson Rothe

The Unity FFA chapter has worked hard this year to not only learn about and promote agriculture, but also develop its members potential for leadership. In September, a group of juniors and seniors in FFA, who are interested in agricultural education, attended the Elite Conference in Bloomington, IL. They were given the opportunity to learn more about and further their interest in teaching agriculture. Unity FFA members were able to ask questions about required coursework, different programs, and expenses in earning an agricultural teaching degree, and talk to different AG teachers about their experiences.

Developing leaders starts at an early age, therefore a group of younger FFA members also attended the 212 Conference in Normal this past November. The goal for this conference was to teach green-

hands and newer FFA members about personal growth and self awareness. Members went to sessions that focused on different the aspects of social, mental, and emotional growth in order to better benefit their chapter.

Several older Unity FFA members were sent to the 360 conference as well. At this event, members focused on becoming visionary leaders and learned important leadership skills that they are now able to circle back into their chapter and community. Members who attended those conferences have been giving back to their chapter tremendously by preparing for upcoming FFA Week and the events that follow, such as the chicken wing and pork chop lunch that Unity FFA hosts every year. The chicken wing lunch will take place on Tuesday February 21st and the pork chop lunch will be on Thursday February 23rd. Both lunches start at 11:30 am and are open to the public.



Members who attended 360 conference (left to right) State Secretary Carrine Harding, Lindsey Decker, Calli Robinson, Maddie Wilson, and Carson Robinson

What's New in Agriculture at Parkland?



Parkland students are back in full swing with the start of the spring semester and there's a lot more than just classes happening on and off campus. Precision Agriculture students attended Precision Planting's Winter Conference, Helena Chemical has provided Parkland with a planter to use in precision agriculture classes and Parkland will host a Parent/Student Information Night.

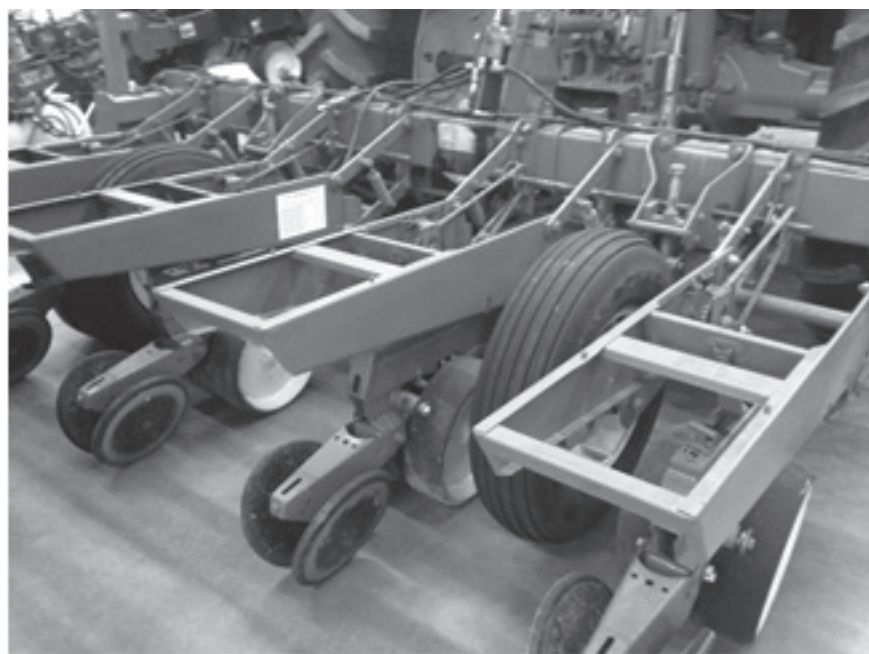
News to Share:

Students attend Precision Planting Winter Conference – Parkland students taking Precision Agriculture classes this spring attended Precision Planting's Winter Conference in Tremont, IL. "This conference exposes students to the newest technologies on the market for planters which is essential knowledge when preparing for a career in precision agriculture" says Jenni Fridgen, Instructor of Precision Ag. Ethan Sieg, freshman in Parkland's Precision Agriculture program says, "It was really interesting to see how much technology has made its way into agriculture." This has become an annual event for the Precision Agriculture classes.



Just a few of the Parkland students that attended Precision Planting's Winter Conference in Tremont, IL.

Helena Chemical Company Provides Parkland with Planter – Helena Chemical Company has provided Parkland College with a John Deere 7000 4-row planter to be used in conjunction with Precision Agriculture classes. As part of Parkland's NSF grant for Precision Agriculture, Parkland will equip the planter with \$25,000 of Precision Planting components. The components will include: Delta Force, vDrive, vSet meters and 20/20 SeedSense monitor which makes this planter state of the art for precision agriculture technology. Students will gain hands-on experience by participating in the installation of the components as well as using the planter this spring to gain further understanding of row by row control and variable rate seeding technology. This planter will compliment Parkland's current Kinze planter which is also equipped with Precision Planting components.



John Deere 7000 4-row planter that will soon be equipped with \$25,000 of Precision Planting components.



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KIRK BULTA
Executive Director



MYLA MUNRO
Earth Partners Coordinator



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Teen Teachers Recognized on National Level

By: Myla Munro



Local and state successes of the Teen Teacher program garnered an invitation to present at American Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. (Photo by Mike Orso of FarmWeek)

This year's American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) Annual Convention was marked by the word 'UNITE'. In an opening statement by AFBF President, Zippy Duvall, he said "Our annual convention is about uniting members from across the country to celebrate the importance of agriculture to every American's life..."

Earth Partners believes this as well; and to broaden the impact we can make through our agricultural literacy efforts we look to our 4-H Ag in the Classroom (AITC) Teen Teacher program and celebrate its successes! Our Teen Teacher program, a joint effort with Champaign County 4-H and local FFA chapters, has made a significant impact on the

next generation of consumers. When this collaborative effort was created by Illinois 4-H and Illinois AITC and then presented to the county representatives, the objectives were clear. The goal was to engage 100 4-H Teen Teachers (13-18 years of age) to teach six lessons about agriculture and its role in our daily lives to 1,000 youth (8-12 years of age) throughout Illinois. The adult mentors and Teen Teachers didn't just accomplish this goal, they knocked it out of the park! In 2015, 138 4-H AITC Teen Teachers were recruited from 20 counties and taught lessons to more than 2,100 youth at 60 different locations.

Locally, the 4-H AITC Teen Teacher program has more than 30 FFA members from four Champaign County

schools that create and teach lessons focused around agriculture and the environment at six After-School programs. These teens have worked to generate more than 15 lessons that are fun, hands-on and engaging for youth, while educating these soon-to-be consumers about the importance of agriculture and the care that farmers take to grow the food needed to feed the world. When Earth Partners and Champaign County 4-H collaborated there was 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. The young kids aren't the only ones benefiting from this program either! Teen Teachers also are gaining important skills like teamwork, responsibility, patience, public speaking while also exploring a possible career in agricultural education!

AFBF President, Zippy Duvall, went on to say at the convention in Phoenix that, "we want the public to understand that we (farmers and ranchers) share their values of safe and healthy food and a healthy environment." The Teen Teachers and their adult mentors believe in this message and have confidence that the lessons being taught to elementary school students bring an awareness to agriculture and the environment in a fun, hands-on way. The Champaign County Farm Bureau

Foundation and Champaign County Extension celebrated the success of our state and local programming with others during a 45 minute session at the Annual Convention in Phoenix this year. Attendees were energized to recruit teens to create their own Teen Teacher groups to deliver lessons about agricultural commodities and the care taken to preserve important natural resources. In addition to the opportunity to speak at AFBF annual convention, Jamie Boas traveled to New Orleans to present on the success of this state-wide program at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents. Earth Partners and Champaign County 4-H are excited to be a part of advocating for agriculture. 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.



Newly recruited Teen Teachers, Bailey Parks-Moore and Bethany Musick, both of the Fisher FFA Chapter create Beanie Babies and talk about seed germination with local youth.

Foundation Board of Directors Honors Retiring Board Members

By: Kirk Bulta

On Friday, January 13th the Foundation Board of Directors celebrated the commitment of three of its members. Foundation Board President Brian McCoy presented members Shanna Hortin, Roger Read, and Renee Weitekamp with their retiring Board Member plaques. The trio have dedicated a combined 15+ years of service to the CCFB Foundation Board of Directors.

Throughout their service, Weitekamp served as chair of the Earth Partners committee while Hortin was chair of both the Scholarship and Fundraising Committees; as well as chair of the Annual Harvest Gala. Read served in various leadership roles including Vice-President of the Board.

The trio have influenced many changes in their time on the Board of Directors; and their guidance helped the Foundation to reach a high level of success at our 30th Anniversary. We thank these three great leaders for their vision and

guidance as we provide educational opportunities that impact the future of the food and agricultural industry.

As these members retire, the Foundation is excited to welcome two new members to our leadership team. Jessica Patzwith of St. Joseph joins the board after serving as a volunteer for the Foundation's scholarship and harvest gala committees for several years. Patzwith is a loan officer at Longview Bank in Ogden. Also joining the Foundation board of directors is Thomasboro area farmer Bev Ehler. The owner of D&R Farms, Ehler has been a longtime supporter of the Foundation's scholarship program and looks forward to continuing her impact on the future of agriculture.

Patzwith and Ehler join a team of 15 board members from various sectors of the Champaign County agricultural industry. For more information on the Foundation visit our website at www.ccfbfoundation.com.



2017 Scholarship Program

Are *You* a
Champaign County resident, or a
Graduate of a Champaign County High School,
with a record of *academic success*
and *leadership*?

Are you pursuing a degree in *agriculture*
or a related curriculum?

We want to help you pay for *College!*

Apply Online
www.ccfbfoundation.com/scholarship
Applications due **March 1, 2017**



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Jessie DeHaan
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Austin Beaty
217-352-0012



Jim Nelson
217-892-4479



Dan Punkay
328-0023



Stan Ochs
217-352-3296



Jessie DeHaan has been serving clients in the Champaign/Mahomet area for 12 years as a Country Financial Representative. A native of Great Falls, Montana, Jessie grew up on a dairy farm and met her future husband, Randy, while she was participating in a one year college exchange program in Wisconsin. In 1991, Randy became a Country Financial Representative and the couple moved to Mahomet. Jessie worked as a securities assistant at First Busey Securities for seven years before becoming Randy's assistant and staying home to raise their two young children, Morgan and Nathan.

In 2005, major change came to Jessie's life. Randy passed away from a brain tumor, and Jessie was presented the opportunity to take over his book of business and help his existing clients continue to fulfill their goals. Saying yes to the opportunity, Jessie has been a Country Financial Representative for 12 years and says she loves "working with and protecting clients and also sharing stories and experiences."

A common question Jessie hears from her clients is "What is my deductible?" To answer this question and many others Jessie strives to stay in contact with clients because "things change, policies change, and we need to stay on top of things." She also encourages her clients to think about life insurance, reminding them that COUNTRY Financial

offers more than just home and auto insurance. We asked Jessie what clients should be asking about and she believes everyone should be aware of their life insurance plan saying "ask your representative how much does life insurance really cost? How can I incorporate that into my financial plan?"

Jessie has been very active in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life since Randy's diagnosis, even co-chairing the Mahomet Mini Relay last year. She also loves being outside, traveling, and Green Bay Packers football. Her greatest joy is spending time with family. Five years ago, Jessie was able to bring these passions together and surprise her kids with tickets to a Packers game at Lambeau Field! Jessie's love of travel has sent her on several memorable trips and will continue this spring with a trip including her 84 year old father and siblings to Washington, DC. Jessie will also have the opportunity to visit Sweden in March while her daughter is there studying abroad.

Jessie DeHaan is located at 1200 W Bloomington Road, Champaign, IL. "COUNTRY Financial has superior products and great people. Trust me to have your back. My goal is to protect you. When you walk out of my office I want you to leave with no worries, knowing that you are taken care of! Let me show you what COUNTRY Financial can do for your financial security."



Terry Hill
217-469-9800



Steve Derry
217-352-2655



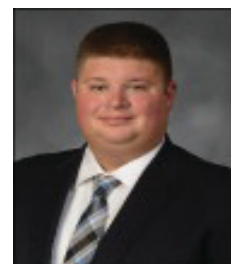
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**MARK THORNSBROUGH,
GENERAL MANAGER**

Focusing on M.O.M.

By: Howard Brown

A new approach to learning more about nutrient stewardship and helping improve nutrient stewardship at the farm gate has been made possible by a partnership between Illini FS, The Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association, The Edgar County Community Foundation and Paris High School. The outreach program provides students an opportunity learn about nutrient stewardship through a series of mini-lectures and hands-on experience. It also provides area farmers with a window into the upper two feet of the soil profile to watch the dynamics of plant-available N, the farmers 2nd greatest input cost. Groups of students are responsible for collecting soil samples and tile water samples. The AP Chemistry students are responsible for testing samples collected for nitrate-N on an instrument designed for infield use to determine nitrate-N to compare with laboratory results. All of the information gathered is summarized, presented and interpreted by the project's director (me) and reported on a website that will be co-managed by Illini FS and a Paris High School Student.

A new tool used in the project to track plant-available N is called N-TRACKER. N-TRACKER was created by Illini FS to help farmers

inventory, track and verify plant-available N throughout the growing season. Although an estimate of the behavior of plant-available N at only a point in a field, the tool allows farmers the opportunity to look into the soil to watch changes in the amount and form (ammonium or nitrate-N) of nitrogen. The tool is designed to help farmers make better nitrogen management decisions (Maximize N utilization and Optimize yield) as well as serve as a way for farmers to determine when N loss has occurred (Minimize environmental impact). We say fondly it is a focus on M.O.M.

The project is based upon an evaluation of five different ways for a farmer to apply N for the 2017 corn crop. The five N management systems include:

1. 100% Fall using N-Serve (a nitrogen stabilizer)
2. 50% Fall using N-Serve and 50% Spring pre-plant
3. 50% Fall using N-Serve, 25% Spring pre-plant, and 25% Spring post-emerge
4. 100% Spring pre-plant
5. 50% Spring pre-plant and 50% Spring post-emerge

Each of the N Management Systems are replicated three times using an experimental design that accommodates the use of statistics with infor-

mation collected (soil tests and harvest yield). Farmers will know which of the N Management Systems produced the highest grain yield at the end of season and how the plant-available N behaved in the soil profile with each system from Fall, 2016 to Fall, 2017 (will try to sample every month). Dr. Emerson Nafziger (Crop Sciences, University of Illinois) will help with the statistical evaluation of the data collected.

The information gathered from each part of this project will be posted on-line for local farmers to watch and review over time. Anyone interested in the outreach program will have a chance to see how plant-available increases after N applications, decreases when there are significant rain events (not certain but possible) and how the detected plant-available N changes form (ammonium-N to nitrate-N by nitrification). The project demonstrates to farmers and local communities that we are all willing to help learn how to improve nutrient stewardship. The program is designed to provide farmers more information to help them with their management decisions while helping students learn about the importance

of production agriculture and nutrient stewardship, and to hopefully inspire students to consider agriculture as a career path or area of continued study).

Everyone is invited to visit the website that will host all of the project's information, www.nu-tracker.com. You can learn more about student involvement and each area of focus by visiting the website and clicking on "About the Program". Visit the project pages to get the most current sampling information and how it is graphically presented. Read the most recent information posted on the site's Blog page and offer your thoughts and feelings about the topic or the comments made. Offer some feedback to the student about the project, website, or results. Much of the website is managed by a student so your feedback will be shared with the faculty and students involved with the project. Note: Illini FS is contacting other area high schools to consider participation in similar or related programs. Watch for future announcements of high school nutrient stewardship outreach programs coming to a high school near you. :-)

Illini FS Crop Insurance with Matt Hoose

Need Crop Insurance?

The deadline to sign up is coming soon – March 15, 2017



crop insurance from last year. Thinking about crop insurance rates? The spring price is based off the average daily closing price of November 2017 soybeans futures prices and December 2017 corn futures prices in the month of February.

Check Spring Price for Corn & Soybeans at

<http://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/PriceDiscovery/GetPrices/YourPrice>

Illini FS 2016 Crop Insurance Year in Review

Matt Hoose didn't see many claims in 2016, only a few isolated hail claims and no revenue claims for federal crop insurance! Yields were very good in the Champaign County area, especially for beans. Be prepared for what 2017 might throw your way and contact Matt for all your crop insurance needs at 217-384-8300.

According to Matt Hoose at Illini FS Crop insurance rates are similar to last year and may even be slightly lower. Rates revolve around commodity prices and those signing up for crop insurance will see NO changes to

Going to the Equine Garage Sale?

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

Stop by the Farmtown booth
and meet our new
Tribute Nutritionist

Jennifer McCormick

* Information * Drawing * Giveaways *

FARMTOWN
— ILLINI FS — lawn and garden center
1509 E. UNIVERSITY AVE URBANA, IL 217-384-8308

TRIBUTE
EQUINE NUTRITION

Be Our Valentine at Prime Timers!
February 9 starting at 10 a.m.

Speaker: Lisa Robinson from
Hueys Home Medical
Entertainment: Dave Fulton



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:
March 9
April 13
May 11

Your 2017 Champaign County
Farm Bureau Board Officers:

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Board re-organized their executive committee last week at the 105th Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on January 23rd at the Pear Tree Estate, immediately following the meeting. Your new officers for 2017 are:



President: Chris Murray, Brown Township



2nd Vice President: Jason Crider,
Mahomet Township



Treasurer: Lee Waters,
St. Joseph Township



Secretary: Brian Dewitt,
Pesotum Township



1st Vice President: Adam Watson,
Crittenden Township

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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Adam Watson, Crittenden Township.....1st Vice President
Jason Crider, Mahomet Township.....2nd Vice President
Brian Dewitt, Pesotum Township.....Secretary
Lee Waters, Treasurer.....Treasur

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Bend; Trent Wolken, Harwood/Kerr; Bob Furtney, Hensley;
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Dale Franzen, Rantoul; Paul Routh, Urbana; Joe Burke,
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Committee Chair; Ken Roellig, Prime Timers; Lynn Doran,
Young Ag Leaders

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Manager -- Bradley Uken, FBCM
Assistant Manager -- David Fulton
Communications Director -- Lesley Gooding
Administrative Assistant -- Brenda Wood
Membership Director -- Deidra Ochs
Earth Partners Director -- Myla Munro
Foundation Director -- Kirk Builta

Contact us at (217) 352-5235
www.ccfarmbureau.com

Early Detection is the key to prevention

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at Champaign County Farm Bureau on 3/15/2017. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit <http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle>

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:

- AG ELECTRIC***
- AGRIBLE***
- A & R ELECTRIC***
- ALL ABOUT EYES***
- ARROW AUTO GLASS***
- BARBECK COMMUNICATIONS***
- BARD OPTICAL***
- BLOSSOM BASKET FLORIST***
- C.A.R.'S AUTO DETAILING***
- CHAMPAIGN CHRYSLER/DODGE/JEEP/RAM***
- COCKY COLLECTION VIRGIN EXTENSIONS***
- COLLETTE TRAVEL***
- CONNECT HEARING***
- COUNTRY SQUIRE CLEANERS***
- CULVER'S***
- DRIVEWAY CHIMES, OGDEN***
- INTERSTATE BATTERIES***
- GREEN PURPOSE***
- HUEY'S HOME MEDICAL***
- FASTENAL, CHAMPAIGN***
- THE FITNESS CENTER -FURNITURE***
- WORLD OF RANTOUL***
- GARBER'S CLEANERS***
- GOOSE CREEK FIREARMS TRAINING***
- HOUCHENS HEATING & A/C GROUP***
- ILLINI CONTRACTOR'S SUPPLY***
- ILLINI FS FARMTOWN/URBANA***
- ILLINI HEARING***
- NANCY'S CREATIONS***
- NAPA AUTO PARTS***
- NICK'S PORTERHOUSE OF PAINTS***
- O'REILLY AUTO PARTS***
- PARD'S WESTERN SHOP***
- RAHN EQUIPMENT COMPANY***
- RAINBOW INTERNATIONAL***
- RANTOUL GOODYEAR TIRE CENTER***
- RANTOUL PIZZA PUB***
- REFINERY HEALTH CLUB***
- ROSATI'S PIZZA & CATERING***
- SAFELY FILED***
- SERVICE MASTER***
- SHOOTER'S BAR AND GRILL - RANTOUL***
- RED WING SHOES***
- SIDNEY DAIRY BARN***
- SUNSINGER WINERY***
- SULLIVAN-PARKHILL AUTOMOTIVE***
- TICKETSATWORK.COM***
- WYLDEWOOD CELLARS***
- ZA'S RESTAURANT***
- *BENEFITS SUBJECT TO CHANGE***
- WITHOUT NOTICE****

CDL PREP COURSE

There will be a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) prep course on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. in the Farm Bureau Auditorium. The class will cover general knowledge of CDLs: air brakes, combination vehicles, tankers, doubles and triples, passenger vehicles and hazardous materials.

A CDL is required if you drive any of the following: any combination vehicle with a Gross Combination Weight Rating of 26,001 pounds or more, providing the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of the vehicle being towed is more than 10,000 pounds; any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more or any such vehicle towing another not in excess of 10,000 pounds; any vehicle designed to transport 15 or more people and any vehicle required by federal law to be placarded while transporting hazardous materials.

Farmers and farm employees are exempt if they do not drive a semi-trailer and are within 150 air miles of their homes.

The cost of the prep course is \$50 for Farm Bureau members and \$55 for non-members. To register for the class, clip the bottom of this page and send it with the payment to the Farm Bureau, 801 N. Country Fair Dr., Champaign, IL 61821. Registration deadline is Monday, February 27, 2016. There is a minimum of 10 participants to hold the class and a maximum of 50 total participants.

Registration Form for CDL Prep Course

Name: _____

Address: _____

street or county road address city zip

Driver's License #: _____

Phone: _____

home/work cell phone

Check the test(s) which needs to be taken:

_____ General Knowledge _____ Doubles/Triples

_____ Air Brakes _____ Passenger Vehicles

_____ Combination Vehicles _____ Hazardous Materials

_____ Tankers

Farm Bureau member (\$50) _____ Non Farm Bureau member (\$55)

Return to:

Champaign County Farm Bureau Registration Deadline: February 27,
2017

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

Marketing Update with:

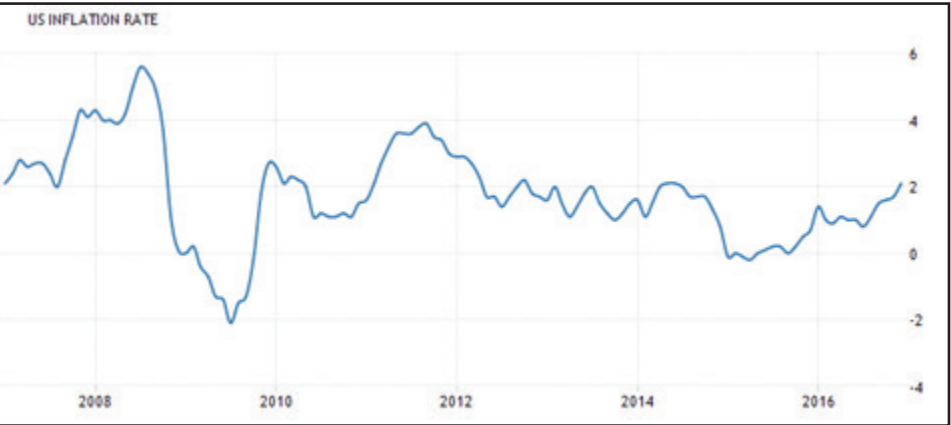
Clayton Pope, *Clayton Pope Commodities*

As we head into the very important month of February, when the “Spring average price” is computed for RP crop insurance coverage, the grain markets are involved in a more intense “face-off” than usual between the bulls and the bears.

Certainly we are facing some rather extreme possibilities from the political arena, including big unknowns regarding administration policies, biases of newly appointed officials (many of whom have little or no previous political experience), the ongoing fear of trade skirmishes with our major trading partners (especially Mexico and China), and many other issues. But, in addition to those well-advertised concerns, we face the normal recurring uncertainties including South American weather, U.S. spring planting intentions, and, of course, our own future weather.

There is another big unknown, however, and that is the question of future inflation pressures in the U.S. This is somewhat of the “elephant in the room” that isn’t really discussed that much recently, but in our opinion has huge ramifications for the future grain price discovery process.

Recent inflation readings have been perking up quite noticeably in recent months (see chart below) and this certainly hasn’t gone unnoticed by the increasingly influential world of “fund traders” (both the “actively traded” and the “index” variety). It was recently reported that the net aggregate fund longs in the soybean complex as a whole are at or near record high levels—despite the highest U.S. stocks to usage ratio (a measure of projected year-end carryover supplies) in ten years (as mostly recently reported by the USDA).



Another sign of growing inflation expectations can be seen in the crude oil market that has continued to rally despite near record high inventories, growing U.S. production, and signs of softer demand. Here is a daily chart of the current front month crude oil contract, March 2017:



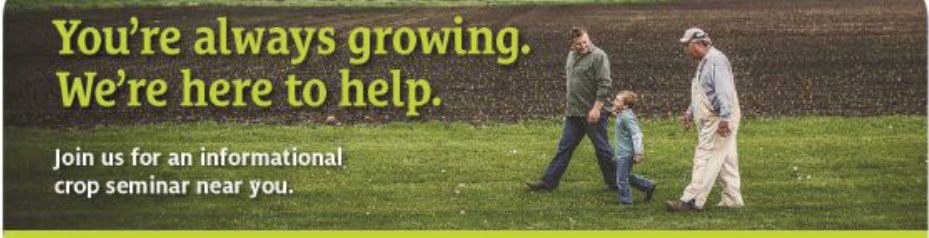
However, we should note that there are many analysts and economists that firmly believe that a significant resurgence of inflation is not at hand, and that the recent explosion of the Federal Reserve’s balance sheet has actually accomplished little besides exploding the related levels of outstanding debt, which by definition would seem to be deflationary, not inflationary.

Looking at the grain fundamentals themselves, we want to remind readers that the U.S. corn carryover is now at an eleven year high (stocks to usage ratio) and, as mentioned above, the soybean carryover is at a ten year high. Current expectations are calling for a rather sharp decline in U.S. planted corn acres in 2017 and a sizeable increase to a new record high in soybean acres. While we expect some degree of shift in that direction, we are skeptical of some of the calls for an extreme shift that are currently circulating. If a moderate shift does occur, say 3-4 million acres, and yields are close to or above “trendline” we would expect fall prices to be lower than current prices. In other words, there is certainly already some degree of risk premium in current prices, but assuming “normal” weather without at least some degree of “scare” is always a big leap of faith.

Taking these inflation concerns into account, along with the other ongoing uncertainties discussed above, we believe the recent buoyancy in the grain markets will continue for the foreseeable future, at least until the market is able to get a firmer handle on South American production levels which are now in a very critical time period in terms of their production cycle. In the meantime, as new crop prices are currently offering attractive profits for soybeans and corn’s bottom line seems to slowly be moving in the right direction, we urge readers to consider some price protection strategies as part of their new crop risk management efforts.

For more information, please visit:

www.claytonpopecommodities.com/



To help you plan for the future, COUNTRY Financial® crop experts have teamed up with your local county Farm Bureau to host a crop seminar near you this winter.

- Updates on performance of ARC & PLC along with Federal Crop changes in the Farm Bill
- Advice on using grain marketing and crop insurance together

COUNTRY Financial has been protecting farms and crops since 1925, adapting our products to meet the diverse and changing needs of today’s farmers. As the #1 crop hail insurer in Illinois,* we’ve earned a solid reputation for stability, expertise and financial strength.

There’s no cost to attend, and we’ll have some food, or refreshments, and great giveaways.**

Friday, February 17, 2017

**Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium
801 N. Country Fair Dr., Champaign, IL
Breakfast at 8:00 am - Agenda begins at 8:30 am**

**Hosted by Champaign County Farm Bureau
COUNTRY Financial of Champaign County
and Illini FS**

**Please RSVP by February 13th to
Champaign County Farm Bureau 217-352-5235**

**Guest Speakers: Doug Yoder
Jason Little and Joe Camp**

**For dates and locations near you, please visit
COUNTRYCrop.com or ilfb.org.**

We hope to see you there.

*Based on market percentage and premiums written.

**No purchase necessary. Offerings may vary according to location. Details available per location when providing RSVP.

This is a no-cost, no obligation, educational seminar and insurance sales presentation.

Federal Crop Insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL, an equal opportunity provider. Auto, Home, and Commercial policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Casualty Insurance Company®, or COUNTRY Preferred Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL. Life insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Life Insurance Company® and COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®, Bloomington, IL. Fixed Annuities issued by COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company®, Bloomington, IL. ©2016 CC Services, Inc.

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**



**Champaign County Farm Bureau
&
Champaign County
Soil & Water
Conservation District**



Drainage, Water & More

Friday, March 17th from 8:00 am to 11:00 am

at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium

Topics Include:

- Combining and Reactivating Drainage Districts
- Tile Monitoring Program
- Bridge Structures within Farm Fields - Ownership and Maintenance
- Climate Change and Agriculture Along with a Growing Season Weather Outlook

The meeting is open to all drainage district commissioners and individuals who have an interest in water related topics.

The event is free and no RSVP is required.

**Champaign County Farm Bureau
801 N. Country Fair Dr. Ste. A
Champaign, IL 61821
217-352-5235**

**For More Information:
Champaign County SWCD
217-352-3536 ext 3
www.ccfarmbureau.com**