



Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 95, No. 4 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821 April, 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.”

DEVELOPING A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PROJECT

By: Dr. Howard Brown



Headlines in the local newspaper about water quality, climate change or Hypoxia in the Gulf, may flare-up and fade away but the concern about production agriculture and environmental stewardship stays and even grows if not addressed. Champaign County Farm Bureau has joined forces with Illini FS to launch a pilot project that will create a Nutrient Stewardship Strategy for participating producers. The pilot group is comprised of six Champaign County farmers located throughout the county. Each participant will develop a Nutrient Management Strategy based upon four components, Assess, Plan, Learn, and Commit. Progress of this pilot project will be reported each month to provide an update of its progress. The first report to be featured next month will be the results from N-TRACKER/Soil. Plant-Available N (PAN) is being tracked within the upper 2 feet of the soil profile. Tracking PAN over time allows participants to develop an understanding of the N dynamics in the soil, which will lead to more informed nitrogen management decisions.

Recent Solar Farm Mailing Information Meeting to be Held at the Champaign County Farm Bureau April 19th.

Recently the Champaign County Farm Bureau has received numerous phone calls about farmers receiving documents in the mail from “Cypress Creek Renewables” of Gilbert, Arizona. These informative packets contain information from the company regarding their solar power units to be used on YOUR farm. There are, however, a couple things to consider when reading this information. The Champaign County Farm Bureau asks that you think in-depth about this process and decision making before signing any document. The first being to thoroughly read the entire packet of information. Be sure to understand the contract fully and read all fine print, disclaimers and agreements. On your behalf, we ask that you look past the financial offerings and take into full consideration what they are wanting. Second, be sure to examine the contract with your personal attorney. Ask them to read, and re-read, this document to be sure this is a good fit/decision for you, your family and the future of your operation.

In response to the questions coming into the office, the Champaign County Farm Bureau will be hosting an informative meeting for anyone from the organization who wishes to attend. This meeting will take place April 19th at 6:30 PM at the Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium. Garrett Thalgott from the office of the General Council of Illinois Farm Bureau will be the presenter. Mr. Thalgott has visited with numerous other counties, state-wide, regarding solar projects by this very company, “Cypress Creek Renewables”. Though Garrett Thalgott is an attorney for the General Council, he cannot serve as an individual member attorney, but, he will be able to point key questions, that you as a landowner will need to consider and look closer at.

Between today and April 19th, PLEASE DO NOT sign any paperwork until attending this informative meeting. We request if you have received these documents to please help spread the word and invite your neighbors to this very important, informative meeting. The Champaign County Farm Bureau understands planting season is here, but we hope you can join us for this critical meeting. Questions? Please call the office at: (217) 352-5235

Welcome Our New Directors to the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board!

By: Lesley Gooding



Dale Franzen
Rantoul Township

Dale Franzen, a lifelong resident of Rantoul, IL, was recently elected to the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors representing Rantoul Township. Dale is a fourth generation corn and soybean farmer that has been on a tractor since before he went to grade school. Dale and his wife, Connie, live on the family’s Centennial Farm that has been in the family since 1900. Dale says “I am lucky to do what is in my heart!”

Dale plans to focus time and energy on the issue of fertilizer run off. He says “I want to see good stewardship of the land and don’t want to see fertilizer leave the soil.” Dale also encourages famers to be good neighbors and treat others how they want to be treated. For example, consult your neighbors when hooking up tile, be considerate and fair.

Dale is interested in other aspects of the farm bureau and is excited to learn more and give everything a fair shake from legislative issues to agriculture education and everything in between. Dale also has interest in the lock and dam, his interest being peaked since attending an Illinois Farm Bureau sponsored tour several years ago.

Dale has served on several boards within the community and is currently on the Drainage District Board. Dale and Connie are the proud parents of two sons, Justin and Nick. Justin and Nick help on the farm when they can and Connie is employed by Bank Rantoul. In his spare time, Dale likes

to spend time with his three grandchildren and enjoys a chance to get away and catch a Chicago Cub baseball game. A big milestone is coming up in August...Dale and Connie will be celebrating 40 years of marriage!



Brennon Breymeyer
Ogden Township

Brennon Breymeyer was recently elected to the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Brennon represents Ogden Township and is a farmer and a John Deere sales representative for AHW LLC. Brennon’s love for agriculture started at a young age when he began helping on his family farm.

Brennon is no stranger to the Farm Bureau, he has been involved with the Young Ag Leader committee. Joining the board of directors is a way for Brennon to become more involved with agriculture and learn more about hot button agriculture issues.

Brennon is concerned about land management, the environment, and nitrogen run off and looks forward to tackling these issues while on the board. He also wants to spend time with technology and commodity prices and marketing. Prior to becoming a sales representative, Brennon worked with GPS and is excited about new technology coming down the pike.

Brennon is a graduate of Rantoul Township High School and the University of Illinois. Brennon and his wife Carlee currently live in the country. In their spare time, they are remodeling a home and preparing to move.

Women’s Committee Spring Fling

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

All Farm Bureau women are invited to attend our Women’s Committee sponsored Spring Fling, to be held on Friday, April 28th. Registration begins at 9:30AM and the event starts at 10AM. Adam of Breakfast, Life, and Dinner will provide a cooking demonstration, be prepared to learn some new cooking tips and also get some new recipes. David Fulton will provide music (back by popular demand,) and the Dress Barn will round out our day with demonstrations about how to coordinate wardrobe choices for weekend trips and other special events. As usual, a delicious lunch will be provided. Your cost for the day is only \$5.00. You may also register a friend if you wish. Please reserve your spot for the day and make payment by contacting Brenda at the Farm Bureau office.

Friday, April 28, starting at 10:00 AM

Lunch Served by the Women’s Committee

Registration Deadline: Friday, April 14


Give Your Driving Skills a TUNE-UP!

Register for a Defensive Driving Course at Champaign County Farm Bureau!

Wednesday, May 24 and Thursday, May 25

8:00 AM to Noon

BOTH days!



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

RESERVATION DEADLINE: May 19

Call: (217) 352-5235 to reserve a spot!

“Check Your Calendar!”

April - 2017

10	Women’s Committee	10 AM
11	Premier Ladies Marketing	9 AM
13	Prime Timers	10 AM
18	Legislative	7:30 AM
20	Full Board	TBD
28	Spring Fling	10 AM








May 2017

9	Premier Ladies Marketing	9 AM
11	Prime Timers	10 AM
19	University of Illinois Baseball Game	
24 - 25	Defensive Driving	8 AM - Noon

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



April President’s Report 2017

Chris Murray

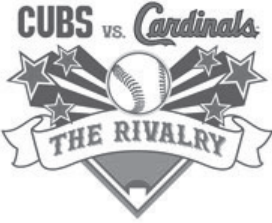
As we move into April, much of the area was extremely dry over the last couple weeks but we have received some much-needed rain in areas of the county. There have been a number of great events that have taken place over the last month. I would like to send congratulations out to Mark Pflugmacher, the 2016 News Gazette Farm Leader of the Year. Mark has meant a lot to Agriculture and our organization over the last decade. He has been a very strong voice for the Farm Bureau on multiple different committees. Spring is always a pretty fast paced time of the year. Operations are getting bigger and the time period that crop goes in the ground continues to shrink as equipment gets larger and the separation of planting corn and soybeans has shrunk to the point that many are planting soybeans at the same time as corn or right after soybean planting has finished. Moral of the story is: be aware of your surroundings out there it is a very cramped time period that we’re moving into. Take all the precautions you can to keep everyone in the operation safe this spring.


Sincerely, Chris Murray


Upcoming Trip

Learn More About Our State!

- Exclusive Cubs vs Cardinals Exhibit -







Join Champaign County Farm Bureau members on May 10 as they travel to Springfield, IL. This one day adventure includes deluxe bus accommodations, a stop at Freddy’s Frozen Custard, and several stops to get your fill of Illinois history! Trip participants will have the opportunity to visit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum & Library, the Old State Capitol & the Illinois State Military Museum.

The first stop of the day will include a tour of the Old State Capitol. According to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, “The Old State Capitol is a reconstruction of Illinois’ fifth statehouse, the first to be located in Springfield. The building served as the seat of state government and a center of Illinois political life from 1839 to 1876. During the dramatic years leading to the Civil War, the building had an important role in the political struggle between Stephen A. Douglas (1813-1861) and Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865). Lincoln visited the building frequently as both a lawyer and a politician, serving in the building during his last term in the Illinois House of Representatives and delivering the famous 1858 “House Divided” speech in Representatives Hall, and using the governor’s rooms as a headquarters during the 1860 presidential campaign. The building was the scene of the assassinated President’s final laying-in-state on May 3-4, 1865.” After spending the morning at the Old State Capitol, attendees will have lunch on their own. There are several unique restaurant choices within walking distance of the Old State Capitol.

The afternoon begins with a stop at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library. The Presidential Museum and Library is currently hosting a special interactive exhibit “Cubs vs. Cards: The Rivalry” featuring sports memorabilia and original relics from each organization. Special items on display include a hat worn by Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood, Cardinals Manager Whitey Herzog’s chart tracking hitting trends, Cardinal outfield Vince Coleman’s shoes, and gear worn by other great players from throughout both organization’s history.

After voting for your favorite baseball team, the group will head to the Illinois State Military Museum. The Illinois State Military Museum’s purpose is to “preserve, honor and display the legacy of the Illinois militia and the Illinois National Guard.” Exhibits throughout the museum cover stories about the sacrifice and service made by Illinoisans serving in the military. Online reviews praise the knowledgeable museum staff and wonderful display of helicopters and other military vehicles.

As the action packed trip comes to an end, the bus will make one final stop at Freddy’s Frozen Custard for ice cream. Freddy’s features a full menu of ice cream options including shakes, cones, sundaes and more.

Time to learn more about this great state we live in! Join us on this informative and fun tour of our capital city! Cost per person: \$60 per person Deadline: May 5, 2017

2

A Safety Message from Illinois Farm Bureau



Stay Alert for Spring Planting!

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

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



Champaign County Farm Bureau 105th County Annual Meeting and Gordyville Midwest Ag Expo Survey Results

Viewpoint Survey Results

Champaign County Farm Bureau conducted a survey of Annual Meeting Attendees and Gordyville Midwest Ag Expo Attendees. Survey respondents were asked several questions regarding current agriculture issues. The tabulated and combined survey results are listed below.

Question: Over the last decade, social media has grown in popularity and usage. Do you utilize various forms of social media? Do you use them to promote/talk about your farm? Do you share what you do on your farm and agriculture in general?

- Responses: Yes: 82 No: 74**
- Sometimes: 40**
- Facebook – 52
 - Twitter – 24
 - Snapchat – 5
 - Instagram – 51
 - Cell phone – 2
 - Computer/Web – 6
 - YouTube – 1
 - Radio – 2
 - LinkedIn – 2

Question: More issues seem to be arising on a local level that impact agriculture and agricultural assets here in Champaign County. Should the county farm bureau continue to demonstrate an active role in these issues?

Responses: Yes: 191 No: 0

Question: In 2017, discussions on the next Farm Bill will occur. Which aspects of the current Farm Bill do you believe are the most critical to maintain?

Responses: Crop Insurance: 34
Crop Insurance & Renewable fuels 64
Crop Insurance, Renewable Fuels & ARC payments: 90

Question: Several consolidations and mergers of companies in the agriculture industry have happen lately, with more proposals on the way. Are these mergers and consolidations good for the industry?

Responses: Yes: 45 No: 126

Question: The confidentiality of data (yield maps, soil test results, inputs applied) from your farm is critical. Do you feel your data is safe?

Responses: Very safe: 29
Somewhat safe: 135
Not safe at all: 20

Question: Farm profitability is a challenge and 2017 will be no different. What impacts your farming profitability the most?

Responses: Input prices: 73
Your personal marketing strategies: 53
Commodity prices: 108

Question: How well-accepted do you feel GMO crops, and foods

FFA Update Featuring: Mahomet-Seymour FFA



The 2016-2017 Mahomet-Seymour FFA Officer Team before their 2nd Annual Dinner and Dessert Auction.

The Mahomet-Seymour FFA Chapter hosted their 2nd Annual Dinner and Dessert Auction on March 6th. Before starting the auction, FFA members served a homemade lasagna dinner to their guests. Along with the desserts that the Mahomet-Seymour FFA members and their families made and donated, several local businesses donated delicious desserts to be auctioned off. The chapter members were very grateful for the amazing desserts that were donated by numerous locally owned stores. Some of the high bidding items were farm themed cookies, homemade cinnamon rolls, a peanut butter explosion cake, and a strawberry cheesecake pie. The Mahomet-Seymour FFA members thoroughly enjoyed hosting over 200 people at this event. For the second year, Andy Busch donated his time to serve as the auctioneer for the evening. Members were very grateful to Mr. Busch for making this event fun and engaging for all in attendance. The money raised at this event allows chapter mem-

bers to attend state and national conventions, compete in Career Development Events, and participate in various other FFA events throughout the year.



Chapter President Madison Mitchell and Chapter Vice President Noah Benedict pose for a photo after the auction with auctioneer Andy Busch.

that contain GMO's, are in this area?

Responses: Very accepted: 53
Somewhat accepted: 126
Not accepted at all: 5

Question: How much "long-term" impact do you feel the economic challenges of the state budget have caused the state?

Responses: Permanent damage: 108
Some damage: 78
Not much long-term damage: 3

Question: Would you be interested in a tile monitoring project in which a third party would sample your tile outlets regularly, testing for nitrates, while keeping the results confidential?

Responses: Yes: 89 No: 87

Question: Which of the following topics would you like to learn more about and would benefit your farming operation the most? Please circle your top three.

- Responses:**
- Various county level issues - 46
 - Social media and using it on your farm - 25
 - The next Farm Bill - 110
 - Consolidation and mergers in the agriculture industry - 33

- **Big Data and managing that data** - 26
- Farm profitability - 104
- GMO's - 38
- The financial integrity of the State of Illinois - 72
- Nutrient management/ tile monitoring – 63

THANK YOU

We appreciate everyone who participated in our Winter Viewpoint Survey. These answers help determine the Champaign County Farm Bureau focus for Winter Viewpoint Meetings to deliver the most important topics and issues to you. Thank you.

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217-352-5235 or go to:

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KIRK BULTA
Executive Director



MYLA MUNRO
Earth Partners Coordinator

Agricultural Literacy Reaps Strong Support from Community!

By: Myla Munro

Earth Partners celebrated a fantastic week of Coffee Shop Tours thanks to the hundreds of supporters who believe in educating others, from kindergarteners to consumers, about where their food comes from. Our Coffee Shop Tour wouldn't be possible without our fantastic local chairmen and WDWS radio personality Dave Gentry. We greatly appreciate the time you carve out of your busy schedules to help the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation raise money for our agricultural education efforts. Our five Coffee Shop locations put up fantastic numbers and our pledged total for the week exceeds \$21,000! Thanks again to everyone who supports our efforts to educate students, teachers and the community about agriculture and natural resources!



Alan Dodds of Illinois Farm Bureau talks with Mahomet Chairman, Chris Karr, at the Champaign-Urbana Coffee Shop at El Toro.



Mary Coash, 2015 Earth Partners' Educator of the Year, attended the Gifford Coffee Shop stop and spoke about how she utilizes The Learning Barn and Earth Partners resources in her classroom.



Champaign County Farm Bureau Board President, Christopher Murray, takes a moment to be interviewed by Dave Gentry of WDWS NewsTalk Radio.



Earth Partners Coordinator, Myla Munro, highlights some of the successes the program has had in the last year with those in attendance at the Mahomet Coffee Shop stop.



Jerry Wallace, a longtime supporter of the Earth Partners program and the Coffee Shop Tour fundraiser shares why he's passionate about agricultural education.



CCFBF Board Member, Callie Heidbreder, visits with Earth Partners Coordinator, Myla Munro, as the Coffee Shop Tour concludes at The Stagecoach in Gifford.



Philo Coffee Shop supporter, Dennis Riggs, visits with Unity FFA member Carson Robinson at the Philo Tavern.



Mahomet-Seymour FFA member, Maddie Fugate, talks about why agricultural education is important. If those within our agricultural community aren't sharing our story, someone else is!

Thanks to our Sponsors!

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Napa Parts of Mahomet

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Remax Realty-Russ Taylor

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SPOTLIGHT

COUNTRY Financial Representative

Bret Kroencke



Meet Bret Kroencke a COUNTRY Financial Representative serving Champaign County since 1999. Bret is passionate about sports and grew up with COUNTRY Financial running through his veins. Bret's dad is a retired COUNTRY Financial Representative and his brother is a COUNTRY Financial Representative serving Western Illinois.

Bret started his career with COUNTRY Financial in Mahomet, IL, working with Chuck Rippey before moving to Champaign, IL, in 2001. Bret grew up in Liberty, IL, and is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After college Bret's love for sports led him to work with the UIUC Athletic Department then moving onto a career as a sports publicist. Early in his career, Bret took his love for sports and founded KCI Sports Publishing, eventually selling off his part of the business in 2006-2007. KCI Publishing writes and publishes books about sports celebrities and personalities.

Bret is one of the only COUNTRY Financial Representatives in Champaign County providing health insurance for farmers, the self-employed, and small business owners. This includes providing access to the Affordable Health Care Act which is a

policy subsidized by the government.

Bret is a seasoned COUNTRY Financial Representative providing customers with quality service and products. The best advice Bret can give to new and current customers is, "it is not worth saving money to compromise protection!" One of the most frequently asked questions by clients is "why are my rates going up?" Bret says, "People are very concerned about saving money and not as worried about being properly covered. Don't compromise coverage! It can really hurt you in the long run!"

Before a client leaves Bret's office he wants clients to have the proper amount of life insurance. "Insuring your life is not about you. It is about the people you love...protecting the income of your family. Insure your car and home, but don't leave out the most important – your life!"

Bret is very active in the Champaign community serving on the City of Champaign Planning Commission and the St. Matthew Catholic School Education Commission. Bret loves spending time with his wife, Janet, and their two children, Kate and Nick. In his spare time you can find Bret on the golf course, coaching his kid's sports teams, or cheering on the Cubs!



Marcia Woolcott
COUNTRY Financial
Agency Assistant
352-0012



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217-469-9800



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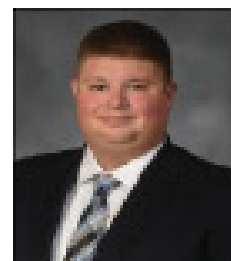
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Nitrogen Management

By: Dr. Howard Brown

Lake Springfield Watershed has its very own N Recommendation Tool. The outcome of a Lake Springfield Watershed Project, funded by Springfield City Water, Light and Power, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, has resulted in a Maximum Return to Nitrogen Calculator (MRTN) created upon N rate studies within and in close proximity to the Lake Springfield Watershed (Figure 1). The Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association deserve the credit for recruiting, implementing and gathering information from farmers that participated in N rate studies. Dr. Emerson Nafziger, Professor, Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois, evaluated the data collected over four years to create the formula that drives the online N Rate Calculator. Visit <http://cnrc.agron.iastate.edu/>, click on Illinois, then LSW (Lake Springfield Watershed) under “Region” or simply click on “MAPS” in the links across the top of the page. More local N Rate Calculators are needed in priority watersheds. Watch for an opportunity to participate in the Lake Vermilion Watershed N Rate Study Program this fall.



Figure 1. Lake Springfield Watershed (LSW), Springfield, Illinois. Lake Springfield is managed by Springfield City Water, Light and Power.

Spring anhydrous ammonia burn is possible, even when applied weeks ahead of planting and especially in no-till/strip till systems (Figure 2). Look in wetter areas of the field for sidewall compaction from the applicator knives. Cutting slots through a wet soil leaves an air pocket. Adequately sealed, the air space within the slot is filled with free ammonia. If a seed or young seedling root contacts free ammonia in the slot/soil, injury will likely occur, slowing early growth and plant emergence. Take a spade into the low areas and place the spade at an angle on one side of the knife track.

Carefully lift the soil and place one hand to the far side pushing down as the spade lifts the soil. If the soil falls into halves, look for smeared sidewalls. If the slot is discovered, simply make sure the row is offset from the knife track or is planted at an angle to the knife track (limits seeds exposed to free ammonia). If the soil is tilled below the depth of seed placement, it is unlikely that spring ammonia burn will be an issue.



Figure 2. Seedling injury caused by exposure to free ammonia in the knife track of an anhydrous ammonia tool bar applied four weeks prior to planting (strip till).

Fall-applied N is still close to where it was applied, however, most of it is no longer ammonium-N. Approximately 80% or more of the Fall-applied N, even with N-Serve and applied the first part of November, has been transformed into nitrate-N by a process referred to as Nitrification. A warmer-than-expected January – March span of time brought microbial populations to life early-than-expected causing the early transformation. A crisis it is not. N-TRACKER sites throughout the area detected as much, if not more Plant-Available N in the upper 2 feet of the soil profile as was applied last fall. The concern focuses on the current predominant form, nitrate-N, a form vulnerable to loss either as a gas (denitrification) or by movement with soil water (leaching). Rainfall, both amount and frequency, from here forward will determine whether the N will be lost or utilized by the plant. Illini FS has over 70 N-TRACKER Sites across East-Central Illinois to monitor N dynamics in the upper soil profile.

Local Farm Bureau members are participating with Illini FS on a new approach to nutrient stewardship (Figure 3). The four-step program, Assess, Plan, Learn, and Commit is designed to help farmers develop their own nutrient stewardship story. The effort will provide participants a baseline or starting point, along with a written plan-of-action, metrics (measures) to

quantify and document improvements, and tools to help learn better ways to manage nutrients with a focus on farm profitability. The final step is a commitment to nutrient stewardship that allows them to achieve Enduring Farm status, a program that recognizes Illini FS customers that have made and fulfilled their stewardship commitment.

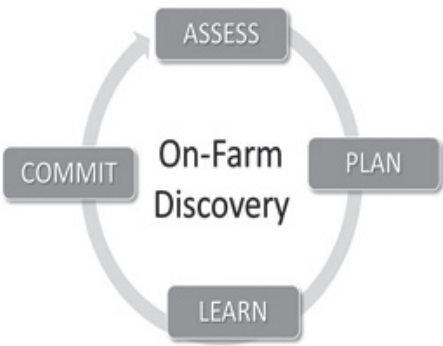


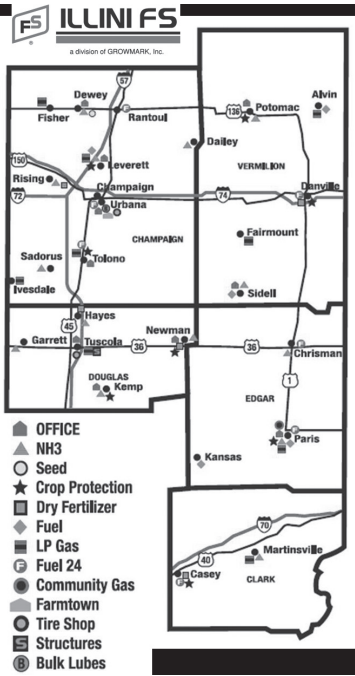
Figure 3. Program to help area producers create their own Nutrient Stewardship Story. The pilot program has six producer participants from the Champaign County Farm Bureau. The program should be ready for full release Fall, 2017.

Climate FieldView

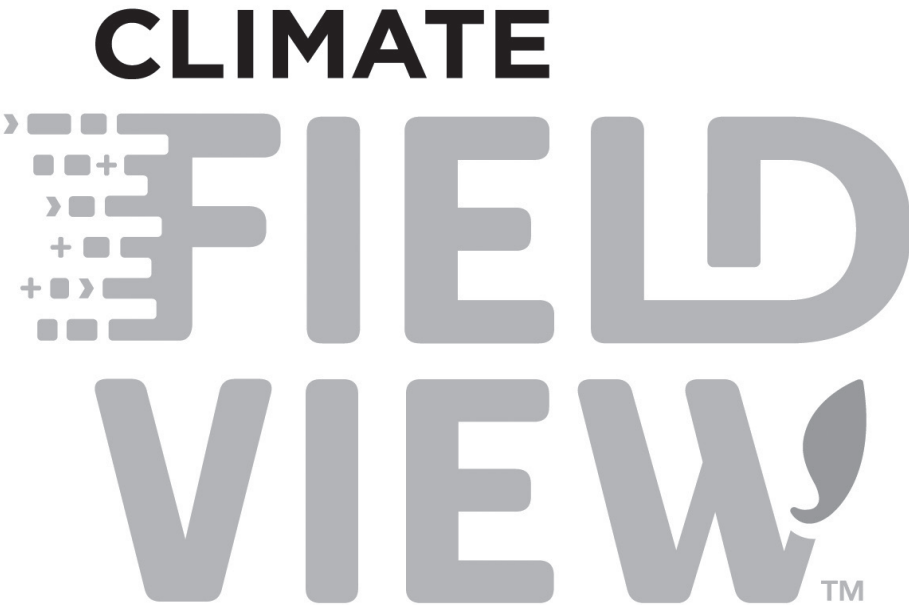
Are you a farmer searching for a way to make better cropping decisions? Illini FS patrons can utilize Climate FieldView which is a powerful, digital tool that allows users collect, store, and view field data in one place. Matt Hynes, Illini FS Agronomy Marketing Manager, has heard Climate FieldView referred to as a “glorified rain gauge” but says it can do so much more than measure rainfall. Matt says “one of the most valuable pieces of this tool is the Field Health Imagery. This helps to monitor or diagnose areas in fields that may need special attention and direct where to scout. Couple that with the Field Region Reports, specific areas in the field that you can analyze agronomic data, growers along with their Crop Specialist can really impact performance to maximize profitability. Finally, the Advance Variable Rate seeding Prescriptions can really help to



MARK THORNSBOROUGH, GENERAL MANAGER



optimize seed investments.” Climate FieldView comes from developer Climate Corporation which has over 60 years of weather history data to draw from. Field data is collected wirelessly and in real time. Real time data collection enables Climate FieldView users to see and utilize data in the field, leading to better decision making. For example, users can see “as planted data” or “as harvested data” as it is being collected. Collected data allows the user to evaluate what is going on in the field. Users can analyze crop performance with imagery and field data maps, pinpointing specific areas of each field to maximize crop performance. Creating a “zone” in a field allows a user to set up and compare data. Comparing data such as specific hybrids or soil types can help optimize crop inputs. Climate FieldView also offers a Nitrogen Monitor which can help to analyze and ask questions regarding nitrogen availability. This allows users to make better decisions regarding nitrogen use and help to answer important questions, is the field losing nitrogen? Does the field need more nitrogen? For more information on Climate FieldView Matt Hynes encourages you to reach out to your Crop Specialist saying “This is another powerful tool that the Illini FS Crop Specialist have at their disposal to help our patrons make better decisions and maximize profitability.”



April 13 starting at 10 a.m.

Speaker: Deputy Jones
Champaign County Sheriff's Department
Entertainment: Bill Polson



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:

May 11
June 8
July 13

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*Stop by before April 14, 2017,
to enter our drawing for a free
Champaign County Wall Map or SmartMap.*

Visit mappingsolutionsGIS.com for plat books,
wall maps, eBooks, and SmartMaps in over 500 additional counties.



Thank You!

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Women's Committee successfully raised \$1,300 to purchase an AED for the building. There was concern voiced that there was not an automated external defibrillator present in case of emergency. Thank you to all who donated money for this worthwhile cause!

- Ernest Osterbur, given in
Memory of Irene Osterbur
- Rawls Walden
- Justin Leerkamp
- Carol Froeschl
- Pat Smith
- Jaunita Henry
- Christie Delaney
- Gerry Windler
- Chris Hausman
- Tom Swigart (Monicals Pizza)
- Lynn Doran
- Christine and Bradley Uken
- Jane Hogan
- Pflugmacher Farms
- Brian Dewitt
- Darlene Uken
- Lyle and Paulette Brock
- Kenneth and Margaret Roellig
- Nancy Strunk
- Lorretta Stoerger
- David Fulton
- Gerald Henry
- Dale Tharp
- Willard and Elizabeth Rothermel

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

What's New in Agriculture at Parkland?

We are proud to recognize our agriculture and horticulture students who participated in two different national events in March. Our agriculture/diesel students competed at the National PAS (Postsecondary Agriculture Student Organization) and our horticulture students competed at the NCLC (National Collegiate Landscape Competition).

News to Share:

Students participated in the National Precision Agriculture and Ag Machinery competitions – Parkland agriculture and diesel students competed against other community colleges and university students in the National PAS competition held in St. Louis, MO this past March. Our students competed in the Precision Agriculture and Ag Machinery Service Technician contests.



Students from left to right are Katie Blackford (Prec. Ag), Jacob Bavetta (Ag Machinery), Griffen Sanders (Ag Machinery), Graysen Voelker (Prec. Ag), Chance Marcotte (Prec. Ag) and Chase Little (Prec. Ag).

The Precision Agriculture contest challenged students on their knowledge of hardware components, successfully utilizing software to create maps and recommendations as well as testing their knowledge over Precision Agriculture in general. Chance Marcotte placed 6th overall while Chase Little followed closely in 7th.



Participants in this year's competition were Richard Zabel (front), back left to right – Della Jacobs, Carlee Wittig, Professor Theresa Meers and Julie Nisbet

Students participated at the National level in Horticulture and Landscape competitions - Horticulture students participated in the National Collegiate Landscape Competition in Provo, Utah this past March. Parkland students competed in plant identification, landscape plant installation, business management, skid steer operation and wood construction. Richard and Della placed 7th overall in wood construction and Richard placed 6th overall in skid steer operation.



**On behalf of the
Champaign County
Farm Bureau staff,
have a safe
planting season!**

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

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- AGRIBLE
- A & R ELECTRIC
- ALL ABOUT EYES
- ARROW AUTO GLASS
- BARBECK COMMUNICATIONS
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- BLOSSOM BASKET FLORIST
- C.A.R.'S AUTO DETAILING
- CHAMPAIGN CHRYSLER/DODGE/JEEP/RAM
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- COLLETTE TRAVEL
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- 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
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- *BENEFITS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
WITHOUT NOTICE*

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



Due to planting season, we will not be meeting until June 5th.

We appreciate all members who came to our WILL Spring Crop Outlook !

Interested in learning how to market your grain?

Join us in June!


FOR SALE
New Hyundai
Dual - Fuel Portable Generator
HCP 9000
Commercial Series
Phone: (217) 621-6676

Proper Use and Display of SMV Emblem

ON THE ROAD


SMV EMBLEM

FOR ILLINOIS FARMERS



Look for the label on the lower face of the emblem indicating compliance with S276.5 (or higher.)

S276.5



Implements of husbandry are required to display a Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) Emblem to the rear at any time they are operated on a public road—day or night. Since 2004, all SMV emblems in use in the State of Illinois have had to meet or exceed the specifications and mounting requirements established by the American Society of Agricultural & Biological Engineers (ASABE) in standard S276.5.

Proper Use

The Illinois Vehicle Code requires that certain vehicle types display the SMV emblem when operated on public roads—day and night. It is NOT contingent on the speed of the vehicle. Vehicle types affected are:

- Implements of husbandry (*farm equipment*)
- Animal-drawn vehicles
- Special mobile equipment
- Neighborhood vehicles (*on-street golf carts*)

Any use of the SMV emblem other than for these vehicle types is prohibited by Illinois law.

Maintenance

Keep it clean! It's the simplest thing you can do to ensure you're seen when out on the road.

Replace faded reflectors. The design standards that specify reflectivity of the SMV emblem are encoded in Illinois law. That means that old, faded emblems no longer meet legal requirements and should be replaced.

Just compare the old emblem to a new one, both in daylight and at night. If there's a noticeable difference in reflectivity, replace the old one. The new materials can last 8 to 10 years, but fade faster if stored outdoors and constantly exposed to sunlight.



Congratulations to Chris Hausman, pictured above, receiving his award of appreciation for his time served as the Illinois Farm Bureau District 12 Director



The Champaign County Farm Bureau hosted members to drainage and water meeting. Above, Garrett Thalgott talks about bridge structures within farm fields and explained ownership and maintenance.




Above, Jim Angel, State Climatologist, at the Drainage meeting about Climate Change and agriculture with a growing season weather outlook

Congratulations, Mark!
2016 Farm Leader of the Year

The Champaign County
Farm Bureau

Proudly Salutes the 2016 Farm Leader of the Year!
Mark Pflugmacher






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

801 North Country Fair Drive, Suite A • Champaign, Illinois 61821

Phone: 217-352-5235 • Fax: 352-8768 • www.ccfarmbureau.com

HC-13&M79