



# Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 95, No. 12 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821 December, 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.”

## Getting to Know Champaign County Government

By: Lesley Gooding



Treasurer, Dan Welch

The power and authority of county government can sometimes be confusing, leaving us wondering who is in charge of various functions. What do our elected/appointed officials do on a daily basis? Why is it important to have different county departments oversee various functions of government? How do Champaign County residents support the county government and also benefit from its services? These are just some of the questions we will delve into as we launch a new, monthly series of articles featuring various county officials and

departments. Do you have a burning question about county government, but don't know who to ask? Submit your question to [lesley@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:lesley@ccfarmbureau.com) and we will attempt to dig deeper and find the answer. Join us as we strive to keep members up to date about local government, how it works, and how it affects life in Champaign County.

Dan Welch, Champaign County Treasurer, started working in the Treasurer's office in 1973 when he was 18 years old. He has a long history in this office and has a wealth of institutional knowledge, "I worked for three treasurers before

running for office the first time in 1998. After 25 years of working in the office I felt more than qualified to run for County Treasurer, fortunately the voters agreed and I took office on December 1, 1998."

Most of us think of the Treasurer when we receive our property tax bill, but the County Treasurer is responsible for more than just sending us the bill and collecting our money. According to Dan, "The County Treasurer wears two hats, tax collector and treasurer. Most people know my office through our collection of real estate tax bills, but we are also responsible for nearly all of the money in Champaign County government. My office is the treasurer for 65 drainage districts and we also collect mobile homes taxes. The office is a customer service operation with over 200,000 customers. People are not shy about communicating with us, in person, by phone and email. As you might imagine, we deal with a lot of unhappy taxpayers. It is our job to listen to their complaints and respond in a professional manner. My staff does a terrific job with our customers." Serving over 200,000 customers takes a lot of manpower. Currently the Treasurer's Office has four full time employees and also employs a student during the tax collection season. Dan has seen his fair share of change over the years, "When I first started working in the treasurer's office in 1973, we employed 14 full time staff members. My budget for the office is \$274,628.00; all but \$13,617 is personnel."

Treasure's office staff is busy throughout the year. The real estate tax season runs from April through October with staff very busy with tax billing, collection and distribution. Dan says you will also find staff "heavily involved with other pressing County issues like the Nursing Home, the local hospital exemption cases, budget issues and customer service inquiries. If it has to do with County money, the treasurer's office is involved. We accept, receipt and deposit all money taken in by any county department. That is a big part of our daily operation. We are also responsible for the care of those funds, collateralizing the deposits and making sure the money is safe. Every County Treasurer is responsible for the Safety, Liquidity and Yield on all dollars in our care (in that order). In the case of my office that amounts to nearly half a billion dollars."

This year Champaign County collected \$332,000,000 in real es-

tate taxes. This is a dramatic change from Dan's first year working at the office stating, "When I started in the office we collected \$31,000,000. That is a 1000% percent increase in 45 years. I can only remember one year that overall taxes went down."

Distribution of money is also a responsibility of this office. Have you ever wondered how money is distributed to taxing districts? Dan has the answer, "We require each of the 125 taxing districts to provide us with bank account information so that we may ACH (electronically) deposit tax collections. We make six monthly distributions of tax money (every 30 days) starting in May, with the final distribution coming in early November. The law says we must make our first distribution 30 days after the first installment due date. With a June 1 due date, that would mean a July 1 distribution, but it is the custom of my office to get the first distribution out in late May which really helps the taxing districts. Champaign County is one of just a handful of the 102 counties in Illinois that mail our tax bills on time (by law, May 1). We have been on time the last 15 years in a row. All of the county offices involved in the tax cycle are very proud of that record."

Continue Champaign County Government on Page 2.....

## Farm Bureau Policy Development

By: Lesley Gooding

As a grassroots organization, local farm bureau members drive and set the tone for the entire organization. Policy development can begin with a local idea to make changes to better reflect the needs and wants of the agriculture community. Policy change can begin with an idea that started in toolshed, coffee shop, or even around the kitchen table. In 2008, car manufacturers started putting yellow gas caps on Flex Fuel Vehicles, this is an idea that started with a Champaign County Farm Bureau member and eventually took hold nationally.

Champaign County Farm Bureau's Viewpoint Committee wants to hear from local members and provides opportunities throughout the year for members to discuss ideas and changes that may benefit the organization.

Continue Policy Development on Page 2.....

### Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 106th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau is called for  
MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2018  
at the  
Pear Tree Estate  
2150 CR 1000 E, Champaign  
Champaign, Illinois

Registration begins at 5 p.m.  
Marketing Club meets at 5 p.m.  
Dinner will be served at 6 p.m.  
The business meeting will begin at 7 p.m. for the purpose of consideration of any business which may be properly presented.

Directors from the following townships will be elected:  
.-Harwood/Kerr

- Ayers
- Stanton
- Champaign
- Condit
- Sidney
- Pesotum
- Brown
- Colfax
- Mahomet

To make reservations:  
Turn to page 8 for the official registration form.  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE:  
MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018

Minutes of the 2017 CCFB Annual Meeting are printed on page 8 of this edition of the CCFB Newsletter





**Vann Parkin**  
**COUNTRY Financial**  
 Agency Manager



*Scott Jackson*  
 217-359-9335



*Bret Kroencke*  
 217-359-9391



*Jessie DeHaan*  
 217-352-3466



*Austin Beaty*  
 217-352-0012



*Jim Nelson*  
 217-892-4479



*Dan Punkay*  
 328-0023



*Stan Ochs*  
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# SPOTLIGHT

COUNTRY Financial Representative

## Dan Duitsman



Dan Duitsman’s first day on the job for COUNTRY Financial, April 19, 1996, was one he can’t forget! On this day, an F3 tornado tore through the town of Ogden, IL, destroying homes, businesses, and churches. Dan, a representative for the past 22 years, was initiated into the world of COUNTRY Financial - visiting clients and filing claims!

From his first day on the job to today, Dan finds joy in working with and taking care of friends he has known forever. A native of the St. Joseph area, Dan’s day typically begins at the office around 7:30 a.m., a lot gets done in one day from meeting with new clients to reviewing coverage with current clients. Dan and his team, which includes Tracie Fitch and Ashley McClain, are located in St. Joseph at 204 N Main St, Suite 201. This team goes the extra mile to take care of clients! On a daily basis while meeting with current clients, Dan stresses the importance of reviewing policies and coverage saying, “Clients have needs that change over time... every time I meet with a client we make adjustments to account for job changes, a new baby, or another life change.” Clients ask a lot of questions and Dan is ready to help, but the most overlooked question is in regards to life insurance. “People don’t pay enough attention to life insurance, often focusing on auto and home insurance. All of it is important, but life insurance can do so much for you. I also encourage clients to focus on retirement by putting money away and diversifying their portfolio!”

Dan strives to work with clients to achieve their goals saying, “I provide clients with a lot of options and steer them in the right direction. Clients leaving my office will have a solid understanding of their coverage and be comfortable with everything COUNTRY Financial is providing them. We are here to help and we want our clients to be successful with their investments! ”

Looking to make a switch to COUNTRY Financial? Dan can help you make the switch, “COUNTRY Financial is a good, strong financial company. We have great Representatives and one is sure to be a great fit. Representatives receive great, ongoing education that focuses on how to take care of clients.”

A farmer for the past 42 years, Dan has a lot of love for Champaign County. Dan and his wife, Theresa, raised their three children in St. Joseph and have been involved in the community for years. In their spare time, Dan and Theresa enjoy traveling throughout the Midwest to visit their three children and two grandchildren. Dan also likes to cheer on the Dallas Cowboys and St. Louis Cardinals!



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



*Terry Hill*  
 217-469-9800



*Steve Derry*  
 217-352-2655



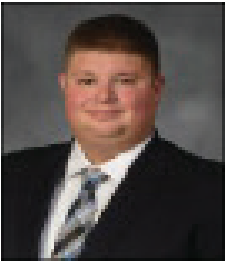
*Chuck Rippy*  
 217-586-5030



*Dan Duitsman*  
 217-469-2033



*John May*  
 217-352-3341



*Andrew Deedrich*  
 359-3941



*Nathan Hubbard*  
 217-892-4479



*Travis Heath*  
 352-4555



*Chris Greenwold*  
 217-355-8675



*Keith Garrett*  
 217-485-3010



***Celebrate Christmas with the Prime Timers  
on December 14th starting at 10 a.m.***

***Program:***

*Ken Roellig - Honor Flight*

***Music by:***

*Martin Luther Men's Chorus*



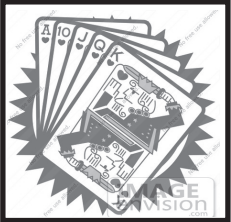
*Ken Roellig, Prime Timers Chairman*

- 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 2018:**

**\*\*No meeting in January\*\***

**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  
2018 calendar!!!**

**January 14 & 28  
February 11 & 25  
March 11**

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY  
FARM BUREAU NEWS**

(USPS 099-840)

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Farm Bureau

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Adam Watson, Crittenden Township.....1st Vice President  
Jason Crider, Mahomet Township.....2nd Vice President  
Brian Dewitt, Pesotum Township.....Secretary  
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Marketing Committee Chairman; Paulette Brock, Women's  
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](http://www.ccfarmbureau.com)

# Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium

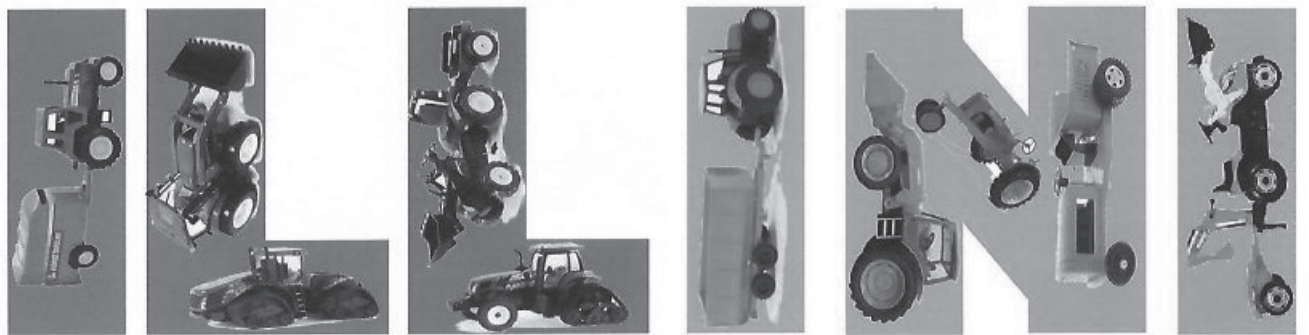
## 2017 LANDOWNER WORKSHOP

**December 13th  
9:00 AM**

**ALL LANDOWNERS WELCOME**

Learn More:

- How to maintain and establish filter strips
- Pollinator Habitat
- Improving Farm Profitability
- How to maintain and protect drainage ditches
- Five STAR Program
- New U of I Shorebird Conservation  
Acreage via drainage water  
Runoff Control (SCARC) Program



## FARM TOY SHOW

**Friday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 3 PM – 7 PM**

**Saturday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 9 AM – 3 PM**

**Adults: \$3, Kids 6-12: \$2, Under 6: Free**

**Wyndham Garden Hotel, 1001 W. Killarney St. Urbana, IL 61801**

**I-74 to Exit 183, South on Lincoln Ave, Hotel on the West**

**For additional information contact Lynn at (970) 420-4765 or [lynnann85@gmail.com](mailto:lynnann85@gmail.com)**

**Sponsored by Champaign and Vermilion Young Ag Leaders**

## SAVINGS WHEREVER YOU GO

Illinois Farm Bureau members enjoy exclusive access to more than 302,000 discounts on everything from hotel rooms to theme parks, new Ford vehicles to prescriptions. Whether you are at home or traveling across the state ... you can find offers near you.

**Access your FREE member-only offers at <http://ilfb.abenity.com>**

### ONE STOP SAVINGS

- Log in to our new membership benefit platform using your county Farm Bureau® membership number at <https://ilfb.abenity.com>
- Search offers using business names, locations, categories, and more
- Change your location to see deals near you
- Show and save mobile coupons
- Provide instant, in-store discounts at nearby restaurants and retailers



**RESTAURANTS CONCERTS ZOOS GIFTS FLOWERS FASHION SPORTING EVENTS TRAVEL HEALTH**





# December Report

President, Chris Murray

Fall harvest has come to an end and more equipment, every day, is getting put away for the winter. As we continue to transition into preparation for our next year’s crop, we continue on our end of harvest storage. In the month of December, we will be looking into our submittals for resolutions and preparing to analyze/present in Chicago. This is an opportunity to set forth revisions to the Illinois Farm Bureau Policy manual, which is the backbone of our lobbying efforts and defines where Farm Bureau stands on particular issues.

In the thick of meeting season, there have been a lot of events and meetings that have already taken place. In addition to the holidays, the Champaign County Farm Bureau will continue to host a number of meetings - ranging from monthly committee opportunities, Landowner Workshop, Prep. Freeze. Cook. with the Women’s Committee, and preparing for the 106<sup>th</sup> Champaign County Annual Meeting! As we start December, on behalf of the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, I am wishing all a safe, and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,  
Chris Murray

Champaign County Government continued from Page 1.....

What about those people who pay taxes at the local bank? How does the treasurer receive your money in a timely manner? “My office has collection contracts with 29 banks throughout Champaign County. We want our taxpayers to have access to a bank in their area that can collect their taxes and not require a trip to Urbana or the expense of mailing. When you pay at your local bank the money stays in that local bank until we need it for distribution. When you pay at your local bank you need a payment coupon and your payment. The bank deposits your payment in our collector bank account at that bank. At the end of each business day they mail to my office all of the payment coupons and a deposit ticket that agrees with the funds collected that day. When the coupons arrive at my office, I run the coupons through a MICR reader which produces a report. After I balance the money and the coupons we then post them into our collection system which shows them paid. My office provides taxpayers with several payment options: In person, by mail, online on our office web site, toll-free phone number, local banks, drop box outside our building,

automatic debit from your bank account.”

Dan Welch is retiring at the end of the year and will be taking with him a vast wealth of knowledge and a great love for Champaign County. “The decision to retire was based on many factors. The main one was I have worked in the office since 1973, when I retire on December 31, 2017 that will be 44 years and 9 months. I started as a teenager and I will leave as senior citizen. I have been elected 5 times and I will leave as the longest serving treasurer in Champaign County history (19 years and one month). It has been a terrific job and I will miss it terribly. My wife retired in July and we want to travel and spoil our grandkids. 45 tax seasons seemed like a nice number to end on.” A successor to this position has been appointed and is ready to take over the Treasurer’s office in 2018. The process began with the Champaign County GOP asking anyone that was interested in the position to apply to the Party. The process has ended and John Farney (presently the County Auditor) was chosen in a vote of the precinct committee members. The County Board approved the appointment at their November meeting.

A great deal of change has taken place over Dan’s 44 years in office saying, “I am proud of totally modernized the Treasurer’s office, including clos-

ing and combining nearly 75 bank accounts into just 6.” He leaves office as the longest serving Champaign County Treasurer being elected five times and was also the first Champaign County Treasurer to be President of the Illinois County Treasurers Association.

Leaving office will be a huge change for Dan Welch, but more changes are coming for Champaign County. Dan’s outlook for the future of the office includes “needing a modern accounting system and new tax cycle software. The big challenge for the office is to continue with a small staff and a small budget, when all of the issues we deal with are getting bigger. The County has to find a solution to the Nursing Home quandary, balance the budget for FY 2018 without huge cuts to General Fund departments, hopefully the courts will soon resolve the Carle and Presence hospital exemption issues favorably, find money for the profound building maintenance issues and find success with the new elected County Executive. In the next few years there will be a new County Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, Auditor and Executive. A lot of huge issues and change ahead!” Best of luck Dan and thanks for all your years of service!

## Recipes for the Holidays!

Provided by the CCFB Women's Committee

### Easy Apple Cake

2 eggs, beaten--1 c.oil,--2 c. sugar--2 c. flour--1t. salt--1 t. baking soda, 1 t. cinnamon--1/2 t. nutmeg, Blend all of these ingredients, and add 3 c. peeled & chopped apples, and 1/2 c. nuts, opt. Put in a greased and floured 9 x 13 pan and bake in a 350o oven for 35-40 minutes till done or toothpick comes out clean. Serve with cool whip or ice cream.

Recipe by Norma Davis

### Lemon Bundt Cake

1 Lemon Cake Mix--4 eggs,--1 c. water--1/3 c. oil.--1 3oz. pkg.,of lemon instant pudding. Spray a bundt pan, mix all ingredients and bake in a preheated oven at 350o for 45-50 min. or till done w/toothpick.. Can drizzle thin icing or lemon flavored icing over the top, if desired. Cool before icing.

Recipe by Gerry Windler

Policy Development continued from Page 1.....

Members are encouraged to attend Winter Viewpoint Meetings, Toolshed Meetings, and complete the Annual Meeting Survey. This year Champaign County Farm Bureau has submitted two proposed resolutions for change to IAA policy. The resolutions began earlier this year with ideas from a single Champaign County Farm Bureau member. Creating a resolution for change is no easy task. It is a process that requires a great deal of collaboration between county and state farm bureau staff and volunteers. Ideas often begin the lengthy process of approval with the Champaign County Board of Directors. Once approved locally the idea moves onto the statewide tentative resolutions committee which is comprised of 18 local Farm Bureau presidents representing the 18 Illinois Farm Bureau Districts, the Illinois Farm Bureau Vice-President, and three IAA Directors. The tentative resolutions committee considers resolutions from around the state before the idea moves onto the entire delegate body at the IAA Annual meeting.

At the annual meeting each county in the state of Illinois is represented with delegates based on the size of its voting membership. During the policy resolution portion of the meeting, delegates will carefully consider all the resolutions approved by the statewide tentative resolutions committee. It should be noted that a member or county can still, during the delegate session, introduce a resolution from the floor pertaining to an issue they feel is critical to the organization. As the process unfolds delegates discuss, debate, and vote on the proposed resolutions becoming part of the organization’s policy book for 2018. Once a resolution is approved by the delegate body it becomes policy of the Illinois Farm Bureau. Illinois Farm Bureau policy may have merit on the national level and could be carried forward through the American Farm Bureau Federation process that nearly mirrors the Illinois Farm Bureau process.

Champaign County Farm Bureau President, Chris Murray, stresses the importance of local members getting involved saying, “Illinois Farm Bureau has a lot of history in our policy, but members keep us up to date with the times. Members are the backbone of the farm bureau and can make changes locally, statewide, and on the national level.”

“Check Your Calendar!”

## December

8	YAL Christmas Party	7:00 PM
11	Women’s Committee Christmas Brunch	10:30 AM
11	Fruit pick up	
12	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 AM
13	Landowner Workshop	9:00 AM
14	Prime Timers	10:00 AM
14	Prep. Freeze. Cook.	MUST CALL IN
19	Legislative	7:30 AM
21	Full Board	6:30 PM
25	Merry Christmas!	
26	Office closed	

## January

1&2	Office closed	
4	YAL	6:30 PM
5-6	Illini Farm Toy Show	
8	Women’s Committee	9:30 AM
11	**NO Prime Timers**	
11	Land Use	6:30 PM

## Champaign County Farm Bureau Women's Committee

Prep/Freeze/Cook - December 14th at 6:30 PM

Remember last year around the holidays when it seemed impossible to cook during those long days and evenings of preparation, shopping and decorating to get in the Christmas spirit? Be stress-free this year, as the Women’s Committee will be hosting a party at the Prep Freeze Cook facility at the Crossing! The cost is \$132/person and will give each participant 10 meals to take home. Each meal is prepared for 5. Join the Women’s Committee for this fun evening of advanced holiday preparation and bring home delicious favorites to share with the family! Please call into the Champaign County Farm Bureau office to reserve your spot today, this is LIMITED TO 30!! (217) 352-5235 Christmas Potluck: Get acquainted with other CCFB ladies on December 11th and join the Women’s Committee for their annual Christmas Potluck! RSVP required for the floral project with a \$15 material fee, project is \*optional\*



# Saint Joseph/Ogden FFA Update

By: Abby Schlueter, St. Joseph-Ogden FFA, Section 17 Treasurer, Chapter Treasurer



Monica Nyman, St. Louis District Dairy Council, spoke to the FFA members at the annual FFA Acquaintance Day, Sponsored by the Champaign County Farm Bureau Young Ag Leaders and made possible by Asmark Institute, Illinois Corn Growers and Monica Nyman.

On November 3rd, four students from the St. Joseph-Ogden High School FFA chapter, along with students from Unity, Fisher, Mahomet, and Heritage, attended the Farm Bureau Acquaintance Day. Acquaintance Day was held in Mahomet this year at the Asmark Institute. Students learned about agricultural safety through hands on demonstrations in anhydrous ammonia and grain accidents. In the facilities, we were shown the applicators for anhydrous ammonia and a video of a tank explosion. We learned what to do when around applicators and how to avoid possible accidents. We also were able to learn about grain safety while at the Asmark Institute. I was lucky enough to be chosen as a participant for the grain bin safety demonstration. The facility had a mock grain bin set up that I was immersed in. Other students worked together using an interlocking tube in order to retrieve me safely from the corn. We were shown how quickly an accident can occur and what to do if we are present in a dangerous situation. After the demonstrations, we were treated to a pizza lunch by the Illinois Corn Growers Association. We also had a presentation from the St. Louis District Dairy Council during our amazing lunch. This entire event was sponsored by Young Ag Leaders. I was so blessed to have been able to attend this event and I look forward to any other Farm Bureau events I am able to attend during the rest of my time in FFA.



Michael Sage volunteers to show proper Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to enter a grain bin.



Abby Schlueter took part in volunteering to be involved in a simulated grain bin entrapment at Asmark Institute.



A team of FFA members volunteered to be the rescue team for a grain bin entrapment. As pictured above, they are using a grain rescue tube to place around the entrapped individual to start the rescue.

## *The 2017 Crop is IN the Bin.....What's Next?*



*Joe Burke, Chairman  
CCFB Marketing Club*

### *Sharpen YOUR Strategy by Attending This Marketing Club Opportunity:*

**Plan NOW to Attend the  
2016 Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting  
on MONDAY, JANUARY 15,  
when the CCFB Marketing Club presents a special  
Marketing Meeting  
beginning at 5 PM at the Pear Tree Estate, Champaign!**

### **Featuring: R. Warren Graeff, Senior Vice President Agriculture Market Manager, PNC Bank**

Warren leads the Agriculture (Ag) Banking Group throughout the PNC footprint. Since joining PNC in May 2007 he developed and implemented the mission and strategy for the PNC Ag Banking Group to provide farmers and agribusinesses with a full range of deposit, credit, and financially related services.

Warren currently serves the following national agricultural organizations: Responsible Nutrient Management Foundation Board of Directors and The National FFA Sponsors Board of Directors.

In the twelve years before joining PNC, Warren was: a Regional President leading a 25-branch Community Banking retail network and small business banking team; Market President; and, Ag/Commercial Relationship Manager.

Prior to Warren's commercial banking career, he was employed by the Farm Credit System for 18 years and received numerous recognitions for his accomplishments in various sales and credit management positions. At various times, he held regional management responsibilities for broad geographic areas in the Upper & Lower Midwest and Southeast US. Due to his effective leadership, he was selected by the US Agency for International Development to lead an Ag credit assignment for the principal agricultural bank in Kyrgyzstan (a former Soviet Republic).

Additional experience includes service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tunisia, North Africa and a high school Vocational Agriculture instructor. He was raised on his family farm in northwest Missouri.

Warren received his bachelor's degree in Education at Northwest Missouri State University, and is a graduate of the School of Banking, Colorado University.

### **CONSUMER CONNECTION TIPS & TOOLS TO HELP YOU SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF AGRICULTURE**

Striking up a conversation with your neighbor at the grocery store about agriculture and you realize you have different opinions about food and farming? Don't fear the person, but the misinformation. No need to get defensive, it's just a conversation....consumers just want to know about their food.

Linda Olson, Illinois Farm Families, suggests when talking to consumers farmers/producers realize "the most important thing is that we are building relationships so that consumers build trust in farmers and their farming practices. We do that through conversations. And just as we build friendships by finding common ground or values, we try to find out what common values we (farmers or those in agriculture) have with consumers. They can be the whole gamut.... we're parents, we're grandparents, we like to run, we like to eat healthy, we like to EAT! We want our kids to eat healthy, we belong to the same church, our kids go to the same school, we are concerned about the environment, etc. And it's through conversations that we find out how we are alike, then we build on that."

**Consumer Connection Tip #4:** Remember this is a conversation, not a lecture. So it is imperative that we ask questions and show we are interested in them – just like getting to know a friend.





**Vann Parkin**  
**COUNTRY Financial**  
 Agency Manager



**FINANCIAL**

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



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

**Did you know you can manage your COUNTRY  
 Financial policies and accounts quickly  
 and easily through My COUNTRY?  
 Online help when and where you want it!**



**Scott Jackson**  
 217-359-9335



**Terry Hill**  
 217-469-9800

**Register your accounts at My COUNTRY to:**

- Access your auto insurance ID cards online or on your phone
- Report a claim and check its status
- Pay your bills, set up recurring payments, go paperless and more
- View policy info and coverages\*
- Access your financial accounts\*
- Change your address

**Click to chat**

If you need help with My COUNTRY, you can call your financial representative anytime. But if you'd rather talk to someone online, you can use the My COUNTRY "click to chat" feature!

Our customer service reps are available to chat with you by instant message when you need help – Mon-Fri, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Central Time.

And if they're not available, you can call and talk to someone 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Get started now!**

Start getting the benefits of My COUNTRY today at [countryfinancial.com](http://countryfinancial.com). You'll need your account or policy number(s), which you can find on your most recent bill, renewal notice or insurance card. You'll also need a valid email address and phone number to register.

Once you've completed the quick, one-time registration process, you can start exploring ways to make your life easier.

**Questions?**

If you have any questions or need help registering, we're here for you. You can:

- Call 866-COUNTRY (866-268-6879).
  - Use the My COUNTRY "click to chat" or
  - Check out frequently asked questions at [countryfinancial.com/mycountryfaqs](http://countryfinancial.com/mycountryfaqs)
- \*Not all policies and financial accounts are available in My COUNTRY.**



**Steve Derry**  
 217-352-2655



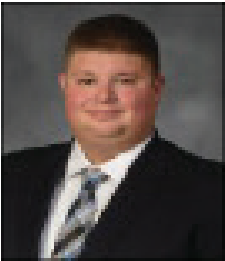
**Chuck Rippy**  
 217-586-5030



**Dan Duitsman**  
 217-469-2033



**John May**  
 217-352-3341



**Andrew Deedrich**  
 359-3941



**Nathan Hubbard**  
 217-892-4479



**Bret Kroencke**  
 217-359-9391



**Jessie DeHaan**  
 217-352-3466



**Austin Beaty**  
 217-352-0012



**Jim Nelson**  
 217-892-4479



**Dan Punkay**  
 328-0023



**Stan Ochs**  
 217-352-3296



**Travis Heath**  
 217-688-2900



**Chris Greenwold**  
 217-355-8675



**Keith Garrett**  
 217-485-3010

**How to de-clutter your home**

**Clutter can amass in almost every space in your house,  
 making it hard to feel organized**

Simplifying your life doesn't have to be stressful, although it might feel like an uphill battle at first. Use our tips below to get started, and see what you can accomplish!

- **Start small.** A shelf, a drawer or a cupboard. Ask yourself, do you really need that many spices? When was the last time you used that dish? Do you need 25 plastic containers for your small family?
- **Sort your tech.** If any of your electronics are broken, out of date or you've moved on, they are safe to throw out. Sort through charging cables and if you can't match them up to electronics you use, get rid of them. There are a sites where you can easily sell used electronics, like Gazelle and Nextworth, if you feel guilty parting with gently used tech.
- **Only keep what makes you happy.** If the waffle iron you got last Christmas and have never used makes you feel guilty every time you see it, is it worth keeping? Probably not. But if your cookbooks make you feel happy every time you look at them, they might be.
- **Get green.** Recycle magazines you've read, old bills and receipts for items you don't plan on returning.
- **Don't stop once you're started.** If your plan is to tackle your whole house, let your momentum in one area carry you on to the next.

Be realistic in what you keep and how much time you devote to de-cluttering. It can easily snowball into an entire afternoon or day of work, when you really only meant to work on your sock drawer. But if you have the time (or need to make time), carve out a few hours over your weekend to dedicate to your de-cluttering agenda, and then stick to your task. Good luck!





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**KIRK BULTA**  
Executive Director



**MYLA MUNRO**  
Earth Partners Coordinator

## Scholarship Applications Available in December

Driven to support an industry thirsty for agricultural professionals, the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation provides scholarships to local students pursuing a degree in an agricultural or related field of study.

“As the cost of college continues to skyrocket, today’s college graduates enter the workforce with both a degree, and a large amount of student debt. That’s why what we’re doing at the Foundation is so important” says Farm Bureau Foundation Executive Director Kirk Bulta.

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.

Bulta says it’s important for all college-bound students to consider studying agriculture and applying for Farm Bureau Foundation 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 will be available after December 15<sup>th</sup> and can be found on the Farm Bureau Foundation’s website. Complete applications are due no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Visit [www.ccfbfoundation.com](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com) to complete the application.

Additional scholarship opportunities exist for Champaign County students pursuing a degree in agriculture. Children of farm families throughout Champaign, Ford and Vermilion Coun-

ties 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](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com) after December 15<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.iaafoundation.org)

## Community Joins Together to Celebrate Agriculture 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Gala Sets Records



Gala Auctioneer Jimmy Hannagan(left) calls the night’s Live Auction and Gala Master of Ceremonies Kris Ehler looks on.



Fisher FFA members Sophia Hortin(left) and Bailey Parks-Moore(right) help raise funds for the Foundation’s Earth Partners Program at this year’s Harvest Gala.



The CCFB Women’s Committee and other friends of the Foundation filled the Dessert Auction with fresh baked treats. Over the past 10 years the Gala’s Dessert Auction has become the talk of the town!



The Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation Board of Directors and staff pauses for a photo ahead of the Foundation’s November 10, 2017 Harvest Gala. The board welcomed a sold out crowd of 400 attendees to Pear Tree Estate.

## Where Does Our Food Come From?



Fisher FFA member, Alayna Stalter chats with a group of students about the life cycle of a pumpkin and the many ways we eat pumpkins and squash.

Champaign Unit 4 kindergarten classrooms visited Parkland College for a field trip to learn all about how food comes from the farm to their plates. A special “Thank you!” goes out to members of the Fisher FFA chapter, University of Illinois Extension

and students studying agricultural sciences from Parkland College and University of Illinois for volunteering their time. The students learned from our volunteers about the many food products that come from agricultural commodities like corn, pigs and vegetables.



Horticulture Intern with University of Illinois Extension, Madalyn Hammel talks with a group about ‘The Plant Parts We Eat’.

## Ag Discovery Students Learn From Industry Professionals



The CCFB Foundation and University of Illinois Extension were excited to host Ag Discovery students from Edison Middle School and Unity High School for the first of two campus visits to University of Illinois. The students were first welcomed by Dr. Jason Emmert from the Department of Agricultural Education. His message to the group was that there are endless opportunities in the field of agriculture; it’s just about finding the

one that fits you best. The students then had the chance to explore how careers in the field of Arts and Communications, Engineering, Manufacturing and Industrial Technologies and Human Services all tie into agriculture. Presenters from Illinois Farm Bureau, Parkland College, Granular and more shared with the students how agriculture bridges into their careers today. To close out the morning, Dr. Prasanta Kalita, Associate Director of Academic Programs, reiterated that careers in agriculture are plentiful and being raised on a farm isn’t a requirement for having a career in agriculture.



# ARE YOU...

*a graduating high school senior or college student?*

**pursuing a degree in Agriculture?**

*from Champaign County?*

*trying to pay for college?*

**passionate about Agriculture?**

**Apply to become a Foundation Scholar!**

Complete your application at  
**[www.ccfbfoundation.com](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com)**  
Application deadline - March 1, 2018







a division of GROWMARK, Inc.

**By: Dr. Howard Brown**

Five years of experience with over 1200 field site evaluations has helped improve N-TRACKER as an N Management Tool. N-TRACKER reviewer comments (Dr. Howard Brown) are provided with each report to help make N management decisions. Working with Paris High School students and the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association demonstrated that N-TRACKER is a viable tool to help make N management decisions. Visit [www.nu-tracker.com](http://www.nu-tracker.com) to learn more about the Illini FS High School Outreach Programs, including the 2016-17 Paris High School Project.

When it comes to fall fertilizer applications, sooner is better than later. Make fertilizer applications prior to the soil freezing. Most of the phosphorus and potassium found in standard fertilizers is water soluble. Nutrients applied to a moist or dry soil have an opportunity to become temporarily fixed or rendered immobile, protecting them from movement with surface run-off. Fertilizers applied to frozen soil have little opportunity to become fixed, making them vulnerable to dissolve in surface water (winter rain on frozen soil) and move away from the site of application to a tile or adjacent ditch. If winter fertilizer applications are made, collect water from an adjacent ditch after a significant rain event in January or February and check for ortho-phosphate or potassium. The findings may be surprising.

- yield performance with wide adaptability
- HS 38X70: 3.8 Maturity, New product for 2018, Has done extremely well in 3<sup>rd</sup> party trial and local plots
- NK S35-K9: 3.5 Maturity, Exceptional yield and agronomics, has excelled in 3<sup>rd</sup> party trials.
- Non-GMO: Have a full line of options with HiSoy and Asgrow
- Liberty Link: Have a wide variety of option with HiSoy and NK

-G36X6: 3.6 Maturity, Industry leading

Justin is busy wrapping up and summarizing Fall Plot Data and says he is looking forward “to meeting with growers to finalize seed plans for the 2018 crop.” Justin stresses the importance for growers to get their orders confirmed early so they can get the best varieties and grade size of choice. The beginning of 2018 will mark the beginning of treating Soybean seed, deliveries will be getting set-up and going out the door, and planning will begin for seed plots and trials for the 2018 crop.

[illegible]





Gale Cunningham

Simply put, Gale Cunningham not only has a love of the farm, farm families, 4-H, FFA, and rural communities, and ag education, he advocates for each of them daily on his radio station. His commitment to the ag industry is nearly unmatched thru his dedication, his time, his love for ag kids and those that steer them and guide them and support them to become the leaders of the future.

Being raised on a grain and livestock farm, he was taught very early the basics of animal husbandry, soil conservation, preservation of Gods land, and caring for it in a way that the next generation can toil and yet enjoy His creation better than the last generation. His work ethic came from these roots, and his boyhood enjoyments were either “the farm”, “the cows”, and “getting the chores done” so he could participate in school activities..... only after his “chores” were done. Today he gives all of the credit for who he is to very basically 4 people. 1) His Lord and Savior 2) Secondly, his Love for over 50 years, Beth that never gave up on him, encouraged him in times of pain, comforted him in times of hurt, and stood and stands beside him through thick and thin. 3) Thirdly, he admittedly gives a lot of credit to his grandfather. His grandfather taught him through example and instruction how to really see Gods creation, and how his creation, nature, can teach, guide, and inform you of everything from weather, planting and harvesting, birthing and weaning, and general love for agriculture. His grandfather was also his inspiration for his love of music and the piano, and how to be a gentleman. 4) And lastly his kids of the FFA. Each year in both Illinois and Indiana he gains additional family members from the State FFA Officers, and he always refers to them as “his kids”.

His entire adult career has been centered around agriculture. While farming for 20 plus years and working full time in farm credit and the banking world, he never lost his focus on teaching others about the marvelous incredible industry that he shares daily. Presently the farm director at WYXY Classic 99.1 FM, he was the original architect of the daily ag programs since the launch of the station 11 years ago. After a tragic loss of his son, Tyson, His life was changed. The event was a game changer. He left the farms, rented the land to his nephew, retired from the banking industry, and did a multitude of things until the Lord opened the opportunity to be a farm broadcaster. His wife told him that, that’s all you talk about is agriculture, 4-H and FFA. I think you should go for it. And he did. Gale and his sweetheart, Beth now have two married daughters and five grandchildren, who refer to him as Grand Dad Woo Hoo.....or in one case.....Grand Diddy.

Registration Deadline - MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018

# THE 106TH

## Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Monday, January 15, 2018-Dinner begins at 6 PM



\*Pear Tree Estate\*

2150 CR 1000 E, Champaign

Cost: \$15 per person



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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Included with Order: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

The 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau was held on Monday, January 23, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at Pear Tree Estate, 2150 CR 1000 E, Champaign, IL. Ken Roellig gave the invocation.

President Chris Murray welcomed everyone to the 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Champaign County Farm Bureau.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Chris Hausman. Chris asked that everyone direct their attention to the center of the room as the colors were presented by Unity FFA members. Young Ag Leader Chairman, Daniel Herriott, led the pledge of allegiance. Chris introduced all legislators and guests that were at the Annual Meeting who serve us in Washington D. C., Springfield, and locally. Chris recognized past presidents of our organization and introduced many other special guests here with us this evening including FFA members from Fisher, St. Joseph/Ogden, Mahomet/Seymour, and Unity high schools and representatives of the University of Illinois Collegiate Young Ag Leaders.

#### Call of the Meeting by Bev Ehler

Bev Ehler, Board secretary, gave the call to the meeting.

#### Credentials Committee Report by

##### Eric Suits

The Credentials Committee consisting of Chris Crider, Harold Guither and Dick Miller informed the president that a quorum was present. Therefore, the president declared that the 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau was legally convened.

#### Secretary’s Report by Bev Ehler

Bev Ehler reported that minutes of the 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau was published in the December 2016 edition of the Champaign County Farm Bureau News. It is the recommendation of the Board of Directors that we dispense with the reading of the minutes. A Motion was made by Bev Ehler, seconded by Chuck Ehler and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Bev Ehler asked if there were any additions or corrections. Hearing none, she moved that the minutes be approved as presented; motion was seconded by Jacob Kesler. The motion carried.

#### Treasurer’s Report by Lee Waters

Lee Waters stated that Treasurer’s report for the Champaign County Farm Bureau was available on page 4 and 5 of your program booklet. It was moved that the financial statement

be approved as printed. Motion was made by Lee Waters seconded by Paul Berbaum and the motion carried.

#### Membership Report by Jacob Kesler

Jacob Kesler reported that Champaign County has made quota for membership since 2004 and this year was no exception. We ended the 2016 Membership Year with a total of 2,503 “M” Members and a Total Membership of 10,572. Champaign County Farm Bureau Volunteers and affiliates signed 97 new “M” members and 674 new Associate members. Chris Murray signed 12 new “M” members and Kristi Pflugmacher signed 10. Dale Tharp, Gerald Henry, Paulette Brock, Joe Burke and Jacob Kesler all signed 5 “M” members. Bev Ehler, Carl Smith and Lee Waters all signed 3 “M” member. Jacob thanked Country Financial Representatives for their work in signing a total of 659 new Associate members and 25 “M” members; Travis Heath lead the way this year signing 74 Associate members and 3 “M” members, Chris Greenwold signed 67 Associates and 1 “M” member and Terry Hill signed 45 Associate members and 6 “M” members. Jacob thanked all volunteers and affiliates who participated in signing members this year.

#### Introduction Current Board Members by Chris Murray

Chris Murray introduced the current Board members and asked them to stand as their name is called.

#### Introduction of Retiring Board Members by Adam Watson

Adam Watson introduced the retiring Board members and presented them with a gift of appreciation: Jeff Fisher, Jacob Kesler, Mark Baird, Bev Ehler and Daniel Herriott.

#### Introduction of Nominating Committee by Adam Watson

Adam Watson introduced nominating committee which consisted of Mark Pflugmacher, Jacob Kesler, Bev Ehler, Mark Baird, Jeff Fisher, Carl Smith, Chris Murray, Lee Waters and himself.

#### Members Running for an additional term by Adam Watson

Members running for an additional term: Paul Routh, Urbana Township, Adam Watson, Crittenden Township and Bob Furtney, Hensley Township.

#### Candidates nominated for the First Time by Adam Watson

Candidates nominated for the first time: Mitch Heap, East Bend Township, Brennon Breymeyer, Ogden Township, Dale Franzen, Rantoul Township, Brian Krukewitt, South Homer Township, and Tom Swigart, Tolono Township.

President Chris Murray appointed three tellers consisting of Luke

Zwilling, Amanda Zwilling, Paul Compton and Bonnie Compton. He asked for nominations from the floor and there were none. Motion was made that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot, motion was seconded by Jeff Fisher, and motion carried to cast a unanimous ballot.

#### IAA Annual Meeting by Chris Murray

Chris Murray asked for a motion to authorize the Board of Directors to select the delegates for the 2017 IAA Annual meeting and to approve the actions and deeds of the Board of Directors of 2016. The motion was made, seconded by Lin Warfel, and carried to allow the Board of Directors to select delegates to the 2016 IAA Annual meeting and approve the actions and deeds of the Board of Directors of 2016.

#### Deputy of the Year by Chris Murray

Chris Murray asked Chief Deputy Jones to join him on the stage to introduced Deputy Bryan Malloch as the 2016 Deputy of the Year and presented him with a plaque.

#### CCFB Award Recognition by

##### David Erickson

David Erickson presented Chris Murray with the President’s Award, Lynn Doran with State Discussion Meet Winner Award and Chris Hausman, Retiring District 12 Director, for 10 years of service with Illinois Farm Bureau

#### CCFB Presidents Message by

##### Chris Murray

President Chris Murray thanked everyone for attending the 105<sup>th</sup> CCFB Annual Meeting and thanked staff and all those who helped with making this evening a success.

#### CCFB Manager Message by

##### Bradley Uken

Brad thanked everyone for their time and help in making this another successful year.

#### CCFB Foundation/Earth Partners Report given by Kirk Builta & Myla Munro

Kirk reported Foundation had a successful year and thanked everyone. Myla presented Kristie Morris with Educator of the Year Award.

#### Adjournment of Meeting by Chris Murray

President Chris Murray asked for a motion to adjourn the 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau. Motion was made by Dale Tharp, seconded by Gerald Henry and motion carried to adjourn the meeting. Chris Murray declared the Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Chris Murray introduced the speaker for the evening Illinois Farm Bureau Vice President David Erickson.