



Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 96, No. 2 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821 February, 2018

“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 Ken Roellig Volunteer of the Year Award

By: Lesley Gooding



Chris Murray (left) Awarded Ken Roellig (right), retiring Prime Timer Chair, the inaugural Ken Roellig Volunteer of the Year Award

Champaign County Farm Bureau proudly presented Ken Roellig with the inaugural “Ken Roellig Volunteer of the Year Award” at this year’s annual meeting. This award named in Ken’s honor will be given to an outstanding Champaign County Farm Bureau volunteer annually. Ken’s time and dedication to the Farm Bureau includes taking on the role as Prime

Timers Committee Chair for past 22 years. Being the Prime Timers Committee Chair also earned Ken a seat on the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Almost every month for the past 22 years, Ken has diligently attended a monthly CCFB Board of Directors meeting and planned and attended a monthly Prime Timers meeting. He is a familiar face at the office logging a lot of face time and prepping materials for meetings. 2018 is marking a passing of the torch as Ken retires from his Prime Timer and Board of Director duties.

Ken’s long time involvement with the Farm Bureau stems from a love for agriculture that began at a young age. Ken grew up on a farm in Windsor, IL, worked briefly for the railroad, and then was called into military service at the age of 18. Ken served in the US Army from November 1944 to July 1946, in the infantry and was stationed in Italy during World War II. When the war ended in Europe, Ken shifted roles and became a Combat Engineer tasked with detonating mines in Japan. Plans were set in motion for Ken and other combat engineers to head to Japan, but once the atomic bomb was dropped plans changed and Ken was sent back to the United States.

Ken’s duty with the Army ended in 1946, bringing Ken home to the University of Illinois where he gradu-

ated with a degree in education. Ken’s career as a math teacher took hold! He taught math in Sparta, IL, before moving to the Unity School District (Unit 7) where he eventually served as principal and superintendent. Ken furthered his own education receiving a Masters of Education Degree and Advance Certificates in Education. An entrepreneurial spirit led Ken to own and operate a Christmas tree farm for 25 years!

Ken and his wife, Margaret, are still on the go. They are celebrating 44 years of marriage. This past year, Ken was also a participant in an Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C. Ken still plans to stay active with the Champaign County Farm Bureau Prime Timers, but will now enjoy the speakers and fellowship from the audience! The Champaign County Farm Bureau owes a big thank you to Ken for his years of dedication and his passion for agriculture!

What is Prime Timers? The Prime Timer program has a goal of providing entertaining and informational social programs, educational activities, and travel opportunities for our members. With monthly updates on legislative issues on the local, state and national level, members are informed citizens as well as knowledgeable consumers of agricultural products. Community outreach is also a priority as is a continual desire to learn more about the changing world around us. Every month, this committee continually investigates new ideas and events that may be of interest to their group. Resources used include local colleges, local celebrities, legislators, teachers, lawmakers, entertainers, the Farm Bureau and local businesses. Committee leaders organize, plan and execute 100% of all programming, travel and catering service.



Chris Murray, President and Brown Township

Thank You to Our Retiring Board Directors!



Frank Hardimon, Colfax Township



Jason Crider, Mahomet Township



Ken Roellig, Prime Timers Chair



Darrel Rice, Sidney Township

New Officers for 2018



A new slate of officers were elected in January for the 2018 Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors! From Left to Right: Mike Briggs, President; Adam Watson, 1st Vice President; Brennon Breymeyer, Secretary; Carl Smith, 2nd Vice President; Lee Waters, Treasurer



February Report

President, Mike Briggs

January has been a very busy month for the Champaign County Farm Bureau. We had great attendance at our annual meeting even though the weather wasn't the most favorable. The annual meeting provided us the opportunity to thank our retiring township directors for their work. They have been great advocates for agriculture and will continue to be in their future endeavors. We also appointed four new directors at the meeting who have already started their tenure of serving our members. Gale Cunningham was our keynote speaker for the evening and talked about how we all have to be prepared to answer questions pertaining to agriculture. We are constantly challenged on the safety and quality of our products and we need to be able to communicate how important our products are to our own families.

We also had the chance to say thank you to our retiring President, Chris Murray, at our January board meeting. Chris has done an outstanding job leading the Farm Bureau over the last two years. While Chris is stepping down as president, he will still be involved with both the Champaign County Farm Bureau and the Illinois Farm Bureau.

It is my honor to take over as president for the coming year. I look forward to the opportunity to serve our Farm Bureau members and work on issues impacting our county. My goal is to continue the Farm Bureau tradition of promoting agriculture and helping the farmers of Champaign County to be successful.

Sincerely,
Mike Briggs

New Director Feature

Welcome to the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors - Benjamin Rice. Benjamin Rice has been elected to represent Sidney Township. Benjamin grew up on a farm in Champaign County and says "I have loved agriculture since I could talk. Farming is my passion." He is a Parkland College graduate, works on the family farm, and is a full-time salesman for Crop Production Services.

While on the board Benjamin would like to focus on GMO's saying, "Right now GMO's scare people. I would like to educate myself and the general public about GMO's." Benjamin is also interested in the legislative action that goes on behind the scenes at the farm bureau. "The legislative side of agriculture really peaks my interest. Legislative work is important for every farmer in the nation. I want to take time to learn more about it."

"I am also really excited to see how a majority of farmers are focusing on responsible nutrient management. We are moving into a new era of agriculture. The data we are now able to gather allows us to look at fine details that farmers were not able to focus on in the past. It is exciting to see where agriculture will be in the next 30 to 40 years. We are farming in environmentally friendly ways while striving to feed more of the world's population."

Benjamin has grown up in a farm bureau family. "My dad was on the farm bureau board for the past six years and I was able to learn from him and see how key the farm bureau is to agriculture across the board. The farm bureau really does work for agriculture on a daily basis."

Benjamin is married to Savannah and they reside in Champaign County.

Women's Committee

February 12th - Valentine Potluck
Please bring a white, red, pink dish to share!

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.

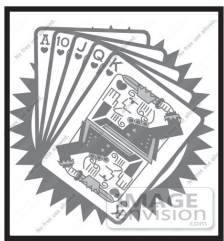
2018:
February 12 - Lynn Doran, Food Chemistry
Lunch: Valentine Potluck

March 12 - Lin Warfel, Normandy Trip
Lunch: Urbana Gardens

Food Safety: Antibiotics/Hormones in Meat and Dairy

March 13th
6:30 PM - CCFB Auditorium
Sandwich Supper Provided
RSVP Deadline: March 9th
(217) 352-5235

Open to Public and ALL CCFB Members



**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!!!

February 11
February 25
March 11



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

"Check Your Calendar!" February -2018

| | | |
|----|--------------------------|----------------|
| 12 | Women's Committee | 9:00 AM |
| 13 | Legislative | 7:30 AM |
| 13 | Premier Ladies Marketing | 9:30 AM |
| 15 | Full Board | 6:30 PM |
| 20 | Drainage Meeting | 8:00 AM |
| 22 | Illinois Food Freedom | 6:00 PM |
| 24 | Equine Garage Sale | 9:00 AM - noon |

March 2018

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | YAL Meeting | 6:30 PM |
| 8 | Prime Timers | 10:00 AM |
| 10 | CDL Prep Class | 7:30 AM |
| 12 | Women's Committee | 9:30 AM |
| 13 | Legislative | 7:30 AM |
| 13 | Premier Ladies Marketing | 9:30 AM |
| 13 | Women's Committee Food Safety meeting | 6:30 PM |

2018 Marketing Club



Joe Burke, Chairman
CCFB Marketing Club

***Sharpen YOUR Strategy by
Attending this Marketing Club Opportunity:***

***April 2nd
WILL AM 580
Spring Outlook***

Guest to be announced Stay tuned!

Heritage FFA



As the Heritage FFA Chapter continues on through the year we have started a lot of new exciting things as well as held on to some of the traditional events as well. Some events we continue to enjoy doing every year are the ever so popular porkchop “Harvest Lunches” we serve to farmers at the local elevators during harvest season as well as our annual FFA Banquet that is always a memorable evening for everyone in attendance.

Although we continue some of these traditions we have begun to plan some new events this year as well. We are looking forward to hosting an Alumni/Local Farmer Breakfast during FFA Week in February. We are encouraging all Local Farmers and others interested in working with our Alumni to join us the morning of Friday February 23rd in the ag shop for breakfast provided by our FFA Chapter. Another new event we are excited to try this year is our “Heritage Ag Day” held on Friday May 11th, where we are planning to host a day that our elementary students as well as the public can come enjoy a day full of activities focused on agriculture in our community. We plan to have a petting zoo where kids can learn about what each animal is used for, tractors for kids to learn about and see up close as well as our annual plant sale where the kids can decorate a pot and plant a flower for Mother’s Day, which is that following weekend. These are a few new things we as a chapter cannot wait to try out.

We have been involved in

community service projects and many contests helping to further our members interests and knowledge that they learn in the classroom. We worked with our school’s FCCLA group to provide over 15 boxes of food to our local food pantry during the holiday season, giving them “bonus” items as treats for the holidays. Contests we have competed in so far this year consist of Forestry, Land-Use, and Agronomy where we also competed at the State contest as well. We are practicing and looking forward to a few more contests to finish out the school year. A lot of our interest in these contests start in the classroom building off the materials we are provided with and getting the chance to put them to use in real life situations. We have also attended different events and conferences as well like the Farm Progress Show in Decatur, FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, and the Champaign County Farm Bureau Acquaintance Day in Bloomington. We have so many great opportunities to explore our interests in agriculture.

As February is shortly nearing we are excited as every other FFA member in the nation is about National FFA Week. This week is February 17th-24th, where FFA Chapters all over the country celebrate such a wonderful organization we get to be apart of. On top of our Alumni/Local breakfast we are planning some different activities such as various dress up days, “Drive your Tractor to School Day”, a Farm Safety demonstration, a Teacher Appreciation lunch and many others. We are looking forward to it and cannot wait to show our school how great of an organization FFA really is.

There is such a great amount of interest in agriculture in our area and we hope that we get the chance to continue to grow that interest! The Heritage FFA is always looking to support our agriculture community and plan to not only maintain our efforts but enhance our presence as well.

Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, and Embrace the Future

YOU’RE INVITED TO ATTEND

Parkland College’s 50th Annual AGRICULTURE BANQUET

Tuesday, February 27

Student Union

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Meal at 6 p.m.

RSVPs by Feb 20: cmurphy@parkland.edu | 217/351-2481

Come celebrate our alumni and contributors, as well as the past, present, and future of our program.



celebrating 50 years!



**agriculture/engineering
science & technologies**
AT PARKLAND COLLEGE

Parkland College Agriculture and Horticulture Alumni:

Parkland College Ag and Horticulture are celebrating 50 years! They are currently locating alumni to participate in a video interview process to capture this year’s banquet theme: “Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, and Embrace the Future”. What do they want? They have asked interested participants to “tell your story.” What did you like most about Parkland Ag, why did they choose Parkland, what is your fondest memory? Are you interested in helping them out? Contact Jenni Fridgen at: JFridgen@parkland.edu

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 #6: Provide assurances, not technical explanations.....research shows us that by connecting to people on an emotional level, having shared values, is much more effective than spouting numbers and explanations that consumers will not understand.



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KIRK BULTA
Executive Director



MYLA MUNRO
Earth Partners Coordinator

Foundation Scholars Travel the World, Discover Agriculture’s Impact

The Foundation is proud to support Champaign County students pursuing degrees in Agriculture. We’re proud of all of our Foundation Scholars who currently represent Champaign County at 9 different colleges and universities all around the country.

Recently, many of our scholars have spent time overseas, furthering their knowledge of agriculture, in hopes to impact our local industry. While some travel for a week or ten days as part of a college class. Others have committed an entire semester towards to International Experiences.

We’re proud to share the experiences of a sampling of our students and wish them all safe travels as they discover the world, and the impact of our agricultural industry.

Jamaica Winter Study Tour

By Madison Mitchell, Foundation Scholar



Madison Mitchell makes friends with a hermit crab while visiting a Marine Lab in Jamaica.

Winter break for students at the University of Illinois is a time to relax after finals, spend time with family, and for some, study abroad trips. One of the study abroad trips that was offered to College of Agricultural Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) students was a nine day trip to Jamaica to learn about the food and agriculture systems. Freshman in the College of ACES were encouraged to attend this trip to broaden their horizons and see the agriculture industry from

a different perspective. Madison Mitchell, Kristen Kurtz, and Josie Runck, all studying in the College of ACES, were among twelve students that went on this once in a lifetime trip, as it is only offered to freshman.

Students on this trip were completely immersed in the culture during their time there. Some of the highlights of the trip were touring a sweet pepper farm, attending a church service, visiting Creighton Estates where Blue Mountain Coffee is grown, touring the University of the Western Indies, along with several other excursions. While in Jamaica, the students stayed with a host family that owns *Jamaica Volunteer Programs*. This family has opened their home up to students and adults that are wanting to volunteer or study abroad in Jamaica. The students had the opportunity to try several dishes that are popular in Jamaica, as well as engage in several cultural events while at the house. The host family, Mr. and Mrs. Evans, had nightly cultural lessons that included dancing lessons, learning about the current events in Jamaica, and many other valuable activities.

One of the biggest things we learned on this trip was how different agriculture is in other countries. Additionally, we gained a greater understanding of Jamaican agricultural practices, food, and culture. The farms we toured ranged




Josie Runck (left), Madison Mitchell (center) and Kristen Kurtz (right) pause for a photo while touring the country of Jamaica over winter break. The University of Illinois students explored the agricultural industry of the Caribbean Island Country in early January.

in size from 4 to 10 acres. Needless to say, we were in shock. Seeing these small farms made me pause and think about agriculture as a whole. Prior to my trip, students mostly only thought of corn and soybeans when someone said “farm”, but now it meant so much more. Seeing farmers and their hired workers working with their crops by hand caused us to have a much higher appreciation for farmers throughout the world. These farmers didn’t have access to tractors, planters, and combines like we see in the United States, but they were making the most of what they had. They were so excited that we were wanting to come and tour their farms and see what they do on a day to day basis. What was amazing to us was how much pride the farmers had for what they were growing and their plans for the future.

We were particularly interested in the sweet pepper farmer that we met with. This gentleman had worked for Digicel, the primary cell phone company in Jamaica for almost 15 years. He quit his job to start up this farm and to produce peppers for the people of Jamaica. He repeated to our group several times that he was eager to have the opportunity to finally have some dirt on his hands. This was just one of the many proud Jamaicans that we met that were generous enough to take time out of their busy days to teach us about how they are contributing to the agriculture industry. Through this program students learned there is so much more to the agriculture industry than just what the United States is doing with it, farmers in other countries must overcome large challenges in order to produce for their people, and the lack of equipment is very evident in Jamaica.

**Madison Mitchell is a freshman at the University of Illinois studying Agricultural Economics. Mitchell is the 2017-2018 recipient of the Matthew Prather Memorial Scholarship. Kristen Kurtz is the recipient of the Joe & Sue Summerville Scholarship and is a freshman pursuing a degree in Agricultural Education at the University of Illinois. Josie Runck is a freshman at Illinois where she is studying Crop Sciences. She is the recipient of the Chester and Margaret Hiser Memorial Scholarship.*

A Semester Abroad



“Matthew Raab is attending Wageningen University in the Netherlands, where he is studying public policy and environmental economics. The thing he likes most about the university is how it attracts such a wide variety of students with different perspectives on agriculture.” Matthew is the 2017-2018 recipient of the William T and Kathryn Luther Henderson Scholarship. He is a junior at the University of Illinois pursuing a degree in Agricultural Economics.

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
Application deadline – March 1, 2018

- SAVE THE DATE**

Earth Partner Coffee Shop Tour

Monday, March 19 – Rafters Draft & Dough, Champaign – Noon

Tuesday, March 20 – Dewey Community Church, Dewey - Noon

Wednesday, March 21 – JT Walker’s, Mahomet - Noon

Thursday, March 22 –Homer Vintage Bakery, Homer – 7:30 A.M.
Philo Tavern, Philo - Noon

Friday, March 23 – Stagecoach Steakhouse, Gifford – Noon



Nathan Hubbard
COUNTRY Financial
 Agency Manager



FINANCIAL

AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT



Marcia Woolcott
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 352-0012



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 217-359-9335

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 217-352-3466



Chuck Rippy
 217-586-5030



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 217-352-0012



Dan Duitsman
 217-469-2033



Jim Nelson
 217-892-4479



John May
 217-352-3341



Dan Punkay
 328-0023



Andrew Deedrich
 359-3941



2018 marked a change in the COUNTRY Financial agency in Champaign County. Several changes were made around the state and the local agency is now made up of Champaign and Vermilion Counties. Vann Parkin relocated to a new agency in Madison County and Nathan Hubbard has been named the new agency manager of the Champaign/Vermilion agency. Nathan has been with COUNTRY for 18 years and his most recent position was as a financial representative in Rantoul.

Nathan grew up in Bloomington, IL. He graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington with a degree in history.

Nathan began his career with COUNTRY Financial in 1999 as a financial representative. In 2008 he became Agency Manager for the St. Louis West Agency. In 2014 he moved back “home” to become a financial representative in the Champaign Agency. Nathan qualified for Master Agent in 2015 and 2017. Nathan achieved All American 10 times and All Star 8 times.

Nathan is an active member in the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA)

Nathan is married to Sara and they have two sons, Leo (4) and Finn (1). In his free time, Nathan enjoys family, watching Leo play basketball and Finn learn to swim. When he has the opportunity you might find him on the golf course as well.



Stan Ochs
 217-352-3296



Travis Heath
 217-688-2900



Chris Greenwold
 217-355-8675



Keith Garrett
 217-485-3010



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MARK THORNSBROUGH,
GENERAL MANAGER

Don't Forget About M.O.M. This Winter

By: Dr. Howard Brown

The weather yo-yo we have experienced so far this winter has some benefits. Over 90% of the phosphorus and potassium fertilizer applied to local fields is water soluble. Applications to frozen soil minimizes the interaction with the soil keeping it in a water soluble form making it vulnerable to loss with rain events that tend to cause surface run-off. Temperatures at or above 50° F, along with moderate rain events has allowed applied fertilizer (to-date) to dissolve and become fixed by the surface soil. Once the water soluble nutrients are applied to the soil, several chemical reactions occur, rendering the nutrients relatively insoluble (won't move with surface water runoff). The nutrients are not lost, they just form compounds that have a lower solubility that the fertilizer applied, the basis for a Build-up and Maintenance Fertilizer Program. Soil test levels are elevated to

a desired concentration (lbs./A) and then maintained with replacement of nutrients removed, since applied phosphorus and potassium, once fixed by the soil, are considered immobile. If the nutrients always remained water soluble, there would be a greater amount of loss and would need to be applied on an annual basis.

A new law in Ohio, Senate Bill 1, makes it unlawful to apply fertilizer to frozen OR snow-covered soil. A \$10,000 fine is attached to each violation. The same Bill includes a requirement to monitor the weather forecast before granular fertilizer applications (what we apply). If there is a 50% chance of a 1-inch rain within 12 hours as predicted by the National Weather Service, it cannot be applied. A record of the forecast information is kept with a log of each field application. If it rains within 25 hours it is permitted to apply

fertilizer, but the solubility problem still exists. A well-intended law can now amplify the problem. The law leaves an impression that it is safe to apply beyond the restricted window, which it is not. It is not about passing a law and dictating when fertilizer can or cannot be applied, it is about preserving the investment in commercial fertilizer, one of the larger input costs. "If we use it, we won't lose it." The focus should be on utilization which will minimize loss.

Temperatures have once again dropped and the soil surface is once again frozen. Risk of nutrient loss when applied to frozen or snow-covered soils remains high. Why risk the economic loss of a valuable input. Avoid fertilizer applications to frozen or snow-covered soils if possible. It's all about M.O.M. is a good way to summarize our approach to nutrient stewardship; Maximize input

utilization, Optimize harvest yield (profitability), Minimize environmental impact. If we rally around M.O.M. Illinois can retain ownership of nutrient management and the freedom to voluntarily improve nutrient stewardship. We need to discover ways to measure our accountability so we can validate the impact of our efforts. A new tool that provides a new set of metrics is N-TRACKER. Visit our website, www.n-tracker.com to learn more about the tool and how it provides a metric for the future of nitrogen management. Visit www.nu-tracker.com to learn more about how Illini FS is working with local high schools to educate future leaders about the importance of the Nitrogen Cycle and nutrient stewardship. Visit www.thinkstewardship.com to see how Illini FS is changing the approach to production agriculture of the future. It is truly "all about M.O.M."

What's Happening at Farmtown?

By: Paula Blakley

If you haven't visited Illini FS Farmtown in a while, spring is the time to drop by. We've made a few small changes to the interior over the past year. We have renovated the inside of the store, putting up barn siding and creating a huge informational chalkboard. We opened up the main aisle to create smaller spaces for displays and moved the cash registers for a smoother flow of traffic.

One of the new product lines that we brought in just over a year ago is the Green Mountain Grills. If you've got a Grill God or Goddess in your household, you need to bring them in to check out these awesome smokers. Green Mountain Grills are referred to as the top-of-the-lines and the best-of-the-best, when it comes to smokers. I can honestly say, that I was a little intimidated by the grills when we brought them in. Anyone who knows me knows that I prefer to be in the garden—not the kitchen, but with a little bit of assistance from the rest of the staff, even I was able to pull off a nicely smoked pork loin. Choices include the portable Davy Crocket that comes with adapters that run the electronics from your car battery or cigarette lighter. It's a great size that's perfect for a tailgating weekend or a small condo back porch. The Danielle Boone model is the next size up, it's probably the most popular of the Green Mountain Grills, and its size is perfect for turkey or large roasts. If you think you might be interested in smoking 12 racks of ribs or 6 slabs of brisket, you need to look into the larger

Jim Bowie! Oh, yeah, the Green Mountain Grills come also come with Wi-Fi capabilities, allowing you to monitor your grill from your smartphone or laptop!

For those who didn't know, we carry equine feed too. Progressive, Tribute, and Total Equine. Each of these great feeds offers a wide variety of supplements to support your horse's health. Some of the supplements Progressive offers include; Soothing Pink to help with a horses digestive issues, Motion Source with glucosamine to provide strong bones and structure development, and Kool Blue formulated with ingredients to promote a relaxed and focused horse. A few of the Tribute Equine supplements include; Tough as Nails a hoof supplement with biotin and calcium, 3-6-9 Shine with Omega 3, 6 and 9 to promote a glossy coat and support of a healthy immune system. For those hot summer days, Tribute also has Endurolyte Electrolyte designed to replace electrolyte levels typically lost in sweat, including sodium, chloride, and potassium. Stop by, let me know you saw it here, and I'll give you a coupon for a discount on a bag of horse feed!

Starting in February we really get busy at Farmtown, new lawn and garden products start to arrive and we start hiring new staff to get us through our busy spring. March starts the season with potato and onion sets, strawberry and rhubarb plants, and of course, cold weather veggies like cabbage and broccoli. Towards the end of March, we should have a few more varieties of dormant shrubs and perennials. April is a great

time to start thinking about cool-season annuals and perennials. It's best to save May for your warm season plantings of tomatoes, peppers, basil, and impatiens!

As you can see, we have a little bit of something for everyone. Have a great spring and look forward to seeing you at the Farmtown Store!

FARMTOWN
— ILLINI FS — *lawn and garden center*

1509 E. UNIVERSITY AVE URBANA, IL 217-384-8308



Seed Starting Saturdays



Getting Started
February 24th 10 am-12 pm
Leeks, Stevia, Summer Savory, Verbena

The Early Ones
March 3rd 10 am-12 pm
Seeds that need a little more time!
Black Beauty Eggplant, Sweet Yellow Onion,
Jalapeno Pepper and Banana Pepper

The Sweet and Savory
March 17th 10 am-12 pm
Sweet Pepper, Parsley, and Chives

Seed Starting Saturdays is a hands-on workshop with discussion on germination, growing media, moisture, and light requirements for successful seed starting. Each week you'll start seeds and take home cell packs of vegetables and herbs. Future Saturday topics will include: hardening off your seedlings, important seeding and transplanting dates, and direct seeding. Workshops are from 10 am-12 pm. There is a \$15 fee for supplies at the first workshop; future workshop have a \$5 supply fee. Reservations are appreciated.

Kokedama

March 10th 10 am-11 am

Kokedama is a ball of soil, covered with moss, on which an ornamental plant grows. The idea has its origins in Japan where Kokedama are very popular. There is a \$15.00 fee for supplies. Please RSVP at 217-384-8308.



Be Our Valentine at Prime Timers!
February 8 starting at 10 a.m.

Speaker: Andrew Pritchard

Agribile Meteorologist

Music: Dan-Ryan Express



Gerald Henry, 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:

March 8

April 12

May 10

New Director Feature



Jim Kleiss, Pesotum Township

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new members of the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Jim Kleiss

represents Pesotum Township. Jim's love for agriculture developed as he grew up on a farm and in his words "I was fortunate enough to be able to take over when my dad retired."

The agriculture sector faces challenges and serving on the board of directors will give Jim a chance to focus on the issues we face. Jim says, "My main concern is the public's perception of agriculture and the effect this may have on government regulation. The best defense against this is obviously education, and I'm interested to learn more about Champaign County's Agriculture in the Classroom program, and the County Farm Bureau's support of the program."

Jim says several other issues peak his interest, "Health Insurance costs are major problem. Recent tax law changes may have opened up some opportunities for relief, IFB and CCFB should have a role in bringing options to members."

Agriculture has its challenges and several bright spots too! According to Jim, "The camaraderie of those involved in agriculture, especially when we come together in groups such as agricultural co-ops and Farm Bureau makes this an exciting time to be involved in agriculture."

Jim has been a Farm Bureau member for several years saying, "Initially years ago I joined Country Companies, and have always maintained membership. I agreed to serve on the board to both learn more about the organization and see if I could serve my fellow farmers."

Jim doesn't have a lot of spare time these days between the farm and four kids, but when possible, you will find Jim riding his motorcycle!

2018

Trip & Tours
to be Announced
in Mid-February!!

Look on our website:
www.ccfarmbureau.com and
for our annual flyer!

CDL PREP COURSE

There will be a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) prep course on Saturday, March 10, 2018 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 Friday, March 2, 2018.** 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: March 2, 2018

ATTN: Brenda

801 N. Country Fair Dr.

NUTRIENT LOSS REDUCTION STRATEGY
SURVEY 2017
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY



Fall Cover Crop Practice

Survey Says....

- ✓ 246 farmers and landowners responded to the survey representing 185,557 acres
- ✓ 38% of those surveyed indicated usage of no-till practices on soybeans
- ✓ 6% of those surveyed indicated usage of no-till practices on a corn and soybeans
- ✓ 10% indicated strip-tillage was part of their tillage practices
- ✓ 39% indicated the usage of nitrogen applied as split pre-plant and in-season applications on corn
- ✓ 15% utilize side-dress only of nitrogen application on corn
- ✓ 54% apply phosphorus used variable rate technology (VRT)
- ✓ 41 farmers planted cover crops on 7,053 acres in Champaign County

The goal of this survey is to gather information concerning farming practices found in Champaign County Illinois. This survey will help in identifying best management practices in response to the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy plan from the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District appreciated those who responded to the 2017 survey.



Champaign County SWCD
2110 W. Park Court, Suite C
Champaign, IL 61821

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
FARM BUREAU NEWS

(USPS 099-840)

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Champaign, IL 61821

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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 Bulta

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

Illinois Food Freedom: New Opportunities for Small Producers

- *New rules in 2018 for farmer's markets.
- *Starting a cottage food business.
- *New value-added cottage foods permitted in 2018.
- *Introduction of local organizations that can help you and your business.

When: Feb. 22nd 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Where: Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium, 801 N Country Fair Dr., Champaign, IL 61821

Cost: Free and open to the public!

Facebook Event: "Illinois Food Freedom: New Opportunities for Small Producers"

Contact: doranlynn@hotmail.com for questions



Left: The Urban Ag Leader of the Year Award is designated by the Young Ag Leaders. This award is given to an individual in the community who works in partnership with the Champaign County Farm Bureau. This individual may not farm full-time, but provides the dedication and talent to strengthen the agriculture industry and the Farm Bureau's mission. This year's recipient is Gale Cunningham for his countless promotional efforts on behalf of Champaign County farmers.

Right: The Deputy of the Year Award is an award that has been given to a Deputy of the Champaign County Sheriff's Department based on their dedication and valor to the citizens of Champaign County. The Farm Bureau recognizes a deputy annually who serves and protects our rural membership and upholds the law. This year's Deputy of the Year Award was given to Deputy Cory Christensen



ANNUAL EQUINE TACK SALE

FEBRUARY
24TH
9:00 AM

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY 4-H
YOUTH EQUINE PROGRAM

Questions??

Call the office today!

(217) 352-5235

Interested in selling??

8 foot tables are available for \$10 each

Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium

Champaign County Farm Bureau
Equine Garage Sale

801 N. Country Fair Dr. Champaign, IL – Farm Bureau Auditorium

When: February 24, 2018 Time: 9AM – Noon

This year's tack sale will be by table rental only. No commission will be charged.

- **8 foot tables are available for \$10 each** to be paid with registration
-Space will be available free of charge next to seller's table for seller's own saddle rack(s).
-(registration form in February newsletter, online www.ccfarmbureau.com or see below)
- Sellers are **solely responsible** for displaying and selling their own merchandise and must provide their own change, calculator, bags, etc.
- Sellers can start setting up their tables at **7:30 am the day of the event**. Items must be removed by **1 pm the day of the event**.
- We **strongly** encourage sellers to have all items clearly labeled with price and seller's initials.
- Tables must be manned at all times.
- **Not Responsible for lost or stolen items.**
- Any questions, contact David at CCFB office at 352-5235 or David@ccfarmbureau.com

Equine Garage Sale Table Rental (please make checks payable to CCFB)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Table: Qty _____ (\$10 each) Saddle Rack Space needed: Yes / No (circle one)

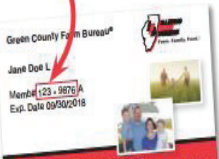
SAVINGS WHEREVER YOU GO

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

FREE Training/Awareness!

Open to CCFB members, public and First Responders

RSVP Required: 217-352-5235

MARCH 24th - Farm Bureau Auditorium

Sign up for all 8 hours and receive a free lunch!

Calling All First Responders

FREE
TRAINING

LARGE ANIMAL RESCUE
AWARENESS (4 HOURS)
ANHYDROUS AMMONIA
SAFETY AWARENESS
(4 HOURS)
CONTINUING ED CREDIT



MADE POSSIBLE BY:
ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
AND COUNTRY FINANCIAL
FARM SAFETY GRANT

SATURDAY
MARCH 24
8AM - 4:30PM
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
FARM BUREAU AUDITORIUM
801 N. COUNTRY FAIR
DR. CHAMPAIGN, IL
RSVP: (217) 352-5235

LUNCH PROVIDED FOR
FULL DAY ATTENDEES

LUNCH PROVIDED BY:
THE CHAMPAIGN
COUNTY FARM BUREAU
EQUINE COMMITTEE
& YOUNG AG LEADERS

CLASSES OPEN TO FIRST
RESPONDERS, PUBLIC &
FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

