



# Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 97, No. 2

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

February, 2019

"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."

## CCFB Board Of Directors Highlight

Members of Champaign County Farm Bureau's Board of Directors put in countless hours of work throughout the year including attendance at events and functions. We would like to extend our gratitude to all the members of the board and would like to pay special tribute to the retiring members of the board.

### PAUL BERBAUM – Scott Township

Paul served two terms on CCFB's Board from 2004-2010 and 2012-2018 and he just returned from his 7th AFBF Annual Meeting. Paul has been involved in several aspects of the Farm Bureau organization including chair of the Legislative Committee, Treasurer, a participant in the Leadership Academy, an IFB Market Study tour participant to Argentina and Brazil, and winning the 2010 Farmer Idea Exchange sponsored by AFBF.



Paul Berbaum

These activities and more have provided Paul with opportunities to meet people from around the county, state, and country. The importance of his involvement in the farm bureau organization has allowed him to get to know public officials. Paul stresses the importance of knowing the people that make decisions.

He also touts the special relationship Champaign County has developed with its adopted legislator, Rep. Greg Harris from Chicago, "it is important for them to know the average farmer! It makes a difference!"

Paul's piece of advice to pass on to farm bureau members and new directors on the board is important, "Get involved! We always need more farmer members to get involved!" Getting involved allows members to gain knowledge about agriculture issues affecting them and others in Champaign County. According to Paul, the issues that stand out most in his mind during his tenure include Waters of the US (WOTUS), the nutrient loss reduction strategy, and trade.

### CHRISTIE DELANEY – Newcomb Township

Spending time as a member of the board of directors allowed Christie Delaney to realize what an impact the Farm Bureau makes on the agricultural community saying "the Farm Bureau is the advocate for farmers whether it be educating the public about our products, or talking with our representatives in our government about policy that would benefit the local farmer."



Christie Delaney

CCFB caught up with Christie to ask her for words of wisdom for the next Scott Township representative and she said, "Get involved with the committees you are passionate about, where you will be excited to leave a large and lasting impact." Christie did just that during her tenure on the board, she got involved and tackled issues that she was passionate about, "One of the most significant issues we face today is educating the public about how and why we do what we do. I enjoyed going into the classroom with children to teach them that many of the items we use every day come from products we raise or produce on the farm."

As these members of the farm bureau retire from the board of directors, they still have big concerns about agriculture and will continue to be involved in issues affecting the industry. Christie is still very concerned about several issues stating, "Definitely trade is a big issue if not the biggest issue we face in our industry today."

### LYNN DORAN – Young Ag Leader Chair

Lynn led a very active group of Young Ag Leaders during her time on the board. She also competed in Discussion Meets on the state and national level. Lynn says, "I learned how much impact a small group of people can have on promoting agriculture and advancing legislation that helps protect and promote agriculture at all levels from county, to state, to federal."



Lynn Doran

The farm bureau is a grassroots organization and is successful because of its members working hard on issues that mean so much to them and their community. As Lynn retires from the board she passes along some helpful tips for farm bureau members and new board members, "Attend a couple of events or committee meetings outside of the board meetings. The board tends to the business that keeps the county farm bureau office operating but the real heart of the grassroots activism occurs in the committees and the events put on by the office staff."

Lynn points out several compelling issues that stick out in her mind from her tenure on the board, "The Illinois Farm Bureau policy that began in Champaign County pertaining to the introduction of new chemical technologies to the market place and the expansions of local food markets were pretty significant. Champaign County also holds a large voting block and played a role in the 2017 elections for the IFB officers and our own District 12 board of director. It was interesting to see how the different leadership styles could've potentially affected the direction of the organization."

The constant evolution of agriculture brings many challenges and changes to the industry. Farm Bureau members must be ready to tackle these issues head-on. According to Lynn, "One of the biggest challenges for both agriculture and the farm bureau is adapting and maintaining relevancy and relate-ability in an increasingly diverse and urban population."

### LORETTA STOERGER – Sadorus Township

Loretta has seen a lot of changes since she joined the board of directors. She served a total of 12 years, 6 as Women's Committee Chair prior to later serving another 6 years as the representative from Sadorus Township. Members of the board of director's deal with a plethora of agriculture-related issues throughout the year including several significant issues over the course of Loretta's tenure including, "dissolving the health insurance program and a change of leadership with Earth Partners." Surprisingly, Loretta states "just when you think things are solved, the same issues will pop up again, but we work on them from different angles."



Loretta Stoerger

Spending a total of 12 years on the board, Loretta was able to make an impact on many important decisions and attended many events. "Working towards the common good for farmers and meeting people from all over Champaign County made my time on the board enjoyable," says Stoerger. "I enjoyed hearing so many ideas and working to-

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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU AND COUNTRY FINANCIAL PRESENT:

PASSING ON THE FARM TO THE NEXT GENERATION

FEBRUARY 12, 2019 AT 5:30 PM



DR. RON HANSON, NOTED FARM SUCCESSION SPEAKER, WILL DISCUSS:

- CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR FARM SUCCESSION
- IDEAS TO KEEP THE FARM IN THE FAMILY
- COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES FOR FAMILY MEMBERS
- HOW TO MANAGE DIFFERING INTERESTS IN THE FAMILY

PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

RSVP BY FEBRUARY 7 BY CALLING 352-5235



# December Report

**President, Mike Briggs**



The last month has brought true winter weather to central Illinois. With the worst of it coming on the weekends the farm bureau wasn't impacted much. Thank you to all of you who made it to the annual meeting. Our members are what makes the farm bureau successful.

It is hard to believe that planting season will be here in a little over a month. I know there was a lot of work that didn't get done last fall and everyone is eager to get started.

Thank you for your support of the farm bureau.

Sincerely,  
Mike Briggs

**Join the Prime Timers!**  
**February 14 starting at 10 a.m.**

**Featured Speaker: Sophia Hortin,**  
**Illinois FFA President**



**Entertainment: Dan Ryan Express**

*Gerald Henry, Prime Timers Chairman*

**Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month**

**Cost \$8 to attend**

**Call 352-5235 ahead of each meeting to reserve your spot**

**Mark your calendar for future meetings!**

**March 14**

**April 11**

## CCFB Calendar of Events February 2019

February 4	Marketing Club	6:30 p.m.
February 10	Euchre	2 – 4 p.m.
February 11	Women's Committee	9:30 a.m.
February 12	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 a.m.
February 12	Succession Planning Seminar	5:30 p.m.
February 14	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
February 19	Legislative Committee	7:30 a.m.
February 21	Full Board	6:30 p.m.
February 24	Euchre	2-4 p.m.

## March 2019

March 10	Euchre	2-4 p.m.
March 11	Women's Committee	9:30 a.m.
March 12	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 a.m.
March 14	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
March 19	Legislative Committee	7:30 a.m.
March 21	Full Board	6:30 p.m.
March 24	Euchre	2-4 p.m.

## Young Ag Leaders February 7 at 6:30 pm

**Arrowhead Lanes**

*1401 N Mckinley Ave, Champaign, IL 61821*

## WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

**The Champaign County Farm Bureau Women's Committee is open to all women interested in agriculture**

### Schedule of Events

**2-11: Regular Meeting 9:30AM**

*Lunch- Red and White Potluck- Please bring a red or white lunch item*

**3-4: Mental Health Awareness Meeting 6:30PM**

*See article elsewhere in this newsletter for all details*

**3-11: Regular Meeting 9:30AM**

*Rachel Coventry, Award winning beekeeper from Curtis Orchard will speak and honey will be available for purchase*

*Lunch- Sunsinger*

## Women's Committee featuring Mental Health 101

**March 4, 2019 at 6:30PM**

All members of the Champaign County Farm Bureau and friends of members are invited to an informative meeting on mental health concerns. Often a taboo subject, it is important to realize that one in five adults experience mental illness in a given year. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is an important organization providing factual data on this important issue. Unfortunately, only half the people with mental illness receive treatment. Members of our farm community are not immune to mental health issues.

We have engaged Linda Culton, MSW, LCSW from Carle as our speaker

for this event. If you want to broaden your knowledge about mental health, attending this meeting will be very important for you or your loved ones. You may learn the criteria for diagnosing various mental illnesses, the prevalence of varied disorders, and you may even learn to save a life by recognizing signs of serious depression and suicidal thinking.

Please join us for this important meeting, sponsored by the Women's Committee. A sandwich and salad supper will be served. Make your reservation by calling Brenda at 352-5235

## Marketing Club

**Join us for a Marketing meeting on February 4th!**

**Speakers:**

**Amy Sage - The Andersons  
&  
Shelby Weckel - Ehler Bros.**

**6:30 pm in the CCFB Auditorium. RSVP by noon on 2/4 by calling 352-5235.**

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

**All CCFB Members welcome! Games start at 2pm and last until 4pm in the CCFB Auditorium**

**February 10 & 24  
March 10**



# What's Been Going On At The Fisher FFA Chapter?

by Felicity Schaffer, Chapter Reporter

Well, a lot, actually. The Fisher FFA has been busy with another year of FFA activities and shenanigans. Miss Boberg, her officer team, and some of our greenhands made the trip to Indianapolis, Indiana to attend the 90th National FFA Convention. At the convention we explored the expo, talked with colleges, spent way too much money in the FFA shopping mall, and attended a Hypnotist show. When not spending time at the convention, we attended tours at Ozark Fisheries and the Exotic Feline Rescue Center.

We then had our 2nd wreath-making workshop, right in time for Christmas! We had all of our slots filled up and the various members of our community enjoyed creating their own holiday wreaths. Following the wreath workshop was our first semester incentive trip. If Fisher FFA members had participated in at least 1 CDE and attended 2/3rds

of meetings, they would be allowed to go on the trip! What could be better way to celebrate the winter season than ice skating?!

After a Christmas spent with family and a break full of rest, our annual Ribeye Dinner fundraiser approached rapidly. Miss Boberg and our members worked hard to prepare for the event and it showed. We served food to the many community members (and even people from throughout Illinois!) who had bought tickets from our members. They then could participate in a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle to win some awesome prizes and donations from many of the local businesses around central Illinois. The evening went great and we're already looking forward to what next year's Dinner will bring!

With our big CDE season, officer elections, and FFA Week coming up soon, our 2018-2019 year is far from over. We have four big CDEs



coming up: Public Speaking, Livestock Judging, Poultry, and Horticulture. We'll have members running for section office, state degrees, and other various FFA degrees and awards. And

in the Fall, we're all excited as our Miss Boberg will become Mrs. Banda! We're looking forward to another amazing semester and new year with the Fisher FFA.



# FFA Highlight - Mahomet Seymour High School

By Karli Waldrep, Reporter



*Jackson Craig, MSHS freshman, trying out his skills at the crop application booth sponsored by Growmark*

On January 16, 2019 Mahomet Seymour FFA hosted the first ever STEAM event. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, and Math. This one night only event allowed Mahomet Seymour students and community members to explore careers and colleges in the Agriculture industry. Many area colleges were present at this event promoting their agriculture programs and providing financial aid information. Along with the colleges

that were present, John Deere brought some of their equipment for the students to experience. Plus, Growmark from Bloomington who brought a crop applicator simulator for students to test their driving abilities. Horizon Hobby sponsored drones which were raffled off the evening of the event and also hosted a "Drone Flying" station, where students were able to test their skill flying a drone. The biggest event of the night was the Dale Carnegie Leadership Training Workshop. Though there was limited space many Mahomet Seymour students were able to learn about team building and leadership skills.



*Adam Guth, MSHS alum, showing current MSHS students about the importance of mapping in Agriculture at the Nutrien Ag Solutions booth.*



*Madison Mitchell, MSHS alum, shows the importance of FFA for future careers in Ag!*



*Students attending Dale Carnegie Leadership training*





**KIRK BULTA**  
Executive Director



**SARAH KAPER**  
Earth Partners Director

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# Earth Partners: Grounded In Agriculture

Just as farming has changed over the years, the approach to teaching agriculture to students has evolved. More than ever, today's students are disconnected from their food sources and have no idea how big of an impact agriculture has on their daily lives. When sitting in a circle with a group of first graders and talking about where milk comes from, it is not uncommon to be asked, "Does chocolate milk come from a brown cow?" The idea that a cow, of any color, produces chocolate milk always makes us laugh. Yet, if we don't address these questions like this, who will?

For teachers who are weaving agricultural topics or themes into their lessons, how do we prevent misinformation and inaccuracies about our industry from being presented?

Middle school students, when attending an agriculture careers event, are always shocked to learn that most jobs in agriculture are not behind the wheel of a tractor. If students are not aware of the abundance and variety of agriculture related jobs that are relevant to their interests, then how as an industry do we recruit the "best and brightest" to lead us in the future?



It is important that students know the truth about where their food comes

from, how and where to look for answers to their questions and how to dispel myths. This is critical knowledge that they will take with them as they grow and mature into decision making consumers. It is important that we equip teachers with lessons and materials that convey truth and build confidence in modern agriculture. It is important to our industry to have access to a talented work force to fulfill the food and fiber demands of an ever increasing population.

How as an industry do we begin to do this? The answer is with frequent, creatively constructed, hands-on learning experiences, based in fact, and that reflect modern agriculture in a realistic and modern way. We start in our schools and plant these seeds of knowledge and curiosity in the hundreds of classrooms and thousands of students in our county.



In 1993 Earth Partners was started by the CCFB Foundation with this exact mission in mind, and since then has strived to:

- help teachers, students, and parents become aware of how agriculture effects their daily lives
- provide FREE agriculture-related lessons, kits, and experiences to pre-school through high school teachers that cover a wide variety

of agricultural topics and can be used across a broad spectrum of subject matter



- create new "hands-on", engaging lessons that align with current state-mandated learning standards, making it an easy and attractive option for teachers to offer in their classrooms
- create an awareness of agriculture career opportunities

This 2018-2019 school year, Earth Partners has made a commitment to drastically increase its direct and active presence in Champaign County classrooms. Earth Partners Director, Sarah Kaper, is doing just that...and in a big way! Sarah, a who is a certified teacher and has spent many years in the classroom, believes that direct instruction from Earth Partners staff and volunteers who have an agriculture background, coupled with fun and engaging activities is the key to getting the truths of agriculture to students of all ages. This school year, on average, 1,000 students per month are experiencing direct agriculture education from Earth Partners and hands-on lesson about agriculture. These lessons are provided free of charge and are taught in a manner that conveys truth and builds confidence in modern agriculture. Teachers

around the county are receptive to Earth Partner's presence in their classrooms and have allowed EP precious classroom time to directly teach and even sometimes align the agricultural message with their own lesson plans. Some of the subjects EP will cover this year include: Nutrition, Environment, Horticulture, Biology, Biotechnology, and Agriculture Careers.

Simply put, the Earth Partners program is striving to ensure that students in Champaign County are grounded in agriculture. With this new direct involvement approach, the number of students receiving our message has grown, and will continue to grow as teachers share with their peers the relevant and engaging programs that Earth Partners offers at no cost. With that growth follows increased costs borne by Earth Partners to provide these "free resources". With this need in mind, the CCFB Foundation is launching its new "Grounded In Ag" Campaign.



This aggressive fundraising drive for Earth Partners launches in mid-February and will run through March 22nd. We hope that you'll watch for more information in the coming weeks, and in our next edition of the CCFB newsletter. Together we can ensure that students in your local school, or your grandchildren's school are all "Grounded in Ag"!

## Giving with Impact

12 out of the box ideas to leave your mark on the CCFB Foundation

This 12-part series will highlight creative ways to provide real impact to the future of agriculture in our community. From Earth Partners to our Farm Bureau Scholars; Together we can provide life changing impact to students throughout Champaign County.

### Gifts of Grain

Making a donation to your favorite charity can be a powerful experience both for the charity, and the donor. Witnessing your donation's impact on our community is rewarding, so too can the tax benefits of your donation.

Even with recent tax reforms in place there is one unique way that farmers can make a big difference on the CCFB Foundation – the **gift of grain**.

When donating grain such as corn or soybeans to the Foundation, a farmer won't report the sale of the grain as income. However, they are still able to deduct their full cost of production. In turn, this donation helps to lower the farm operations taxable income.

Once the donation is received by the CCFB Foundation, staff will market the grain turning the proceeds into action

as a way to impact youth through our Earth Partners programming; or help students realize their college dream through our growing scholarship assistance programs.

While the process of donating grain is as easy as a conversation with your grain merchandiser, we recommend that you first speak with your tax advisor to determine if the gift of grain is right

for your unique business.

If you'd like more information on giving a gift of grain, or how you can help make a difference, please contact CCFB Foundation Executive Director, Kirk Bulta at [kirk@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:kirk@ccfarmbureau.com) or by calling our office at 217-352-5235.





**Nathan Hubbard**  
COUNTRY Financial  
Agency Manager



**Rhonda Wagner**  
Administrative Assistant  
Champaign Agency



**Dan Punkay**  
328-0023

## Personal Finance Snapshot: More Americans Are Feeling Financially Secure Compared to Last Year

*A majority of Americans, driven by millennials, are feeling increasingly confident in matters of saving for retirement, paying down debt and insuring possessions, though concerns over affording college have grown.*

BLOOMINGTON, IL – Americans are feeling increasingly more confident about their personal finances, according to the latest COUNTRY Financial Security Index®. The survey found that 56 percent of Americans describe their financial security as excellent or good—an eight percent increase from the 48 percent of people who responded the same way last year.

### Millennials' Improved Saving Habits

While the uptick in financial attitudes over the past year has been consistent across most demographic groups, the largest jump in attitudes interestingly came from younger Americans, ages 18 to 34. This age category saw a 12 percent increase (from 37 to 49 percent) in the number of people rating their financial health as excellent/good versus fair/poor over the last year.

This age group also showed the most year-over-year increase in saving behaviors. The number of millennials claiming to have put aside money for savings and investments over the past two months rose from 47 percent in 2017 to 55 percent in 2018 – comparable to the 56 percent of Americans overall who answered the same way.

“A feeling of financial security is highly subjective and depends on a number of different individual factors,” said Troy Frerichs, Director of Wealth Management and Financial Planning at COUNTRY Financial. “Regardless of how the economy is performing, families who are taking simple steps towards saving, preparing for retirement and paying off debts will most likely feel a greater sense of financial security.”

### Retirement-Ready and Debt-Free

Preparedness for retirement and confidence in facing debt are two factors influencing Americans' improved feelings about their personal finances. The number of Americans who feel prepared to live a comfortable life in retirement increased slightly from last year, as 60 percent of Americans believe they are somewhat (37 percent) or very (23 percent) likely to have enough money in retirement to live comfortably compared to the 58 percent who provided either response in 2017.

Meanwhile, Americans' confidence in addressing their debts has remained consistent since last year: half (51 percent) of Americans are very confident that they can pay their debts in time, while another 27 percent are somewhat confident. Just 14 percent are not very or not at all confident.

### Concerns for College Savings

In spite of a rising confidence in their financial situations, saving for college continues to be a source of concern among parents who expect to be responsible for a child's college education. Within this demographic, six-in-ten (60 percent) feel very or somewhat confident they will have enough resources when the time comes to send their child to college—a seven percent decrease from 2017.

“As the price of tuition rises and parents are concerned with doing all they can to ensure their kids will be successful, for some families, saving for college is more daunting than the prospect of saving for retirement,” Frerichs continued.

“Taking action early to consider and plan for college savings will help you to reach your personal financial goals and achieve a better state of mind in the process.”

### Confidence in Coverage

The majority of Americans (65 percent) are confident that their family would be able to live comfortably if they were to become disabled or die today. Unsurprisingly, Americans with higher incomes and 401Ks are more likely to feel confident that their family would be comfortable without their financial support.

In addition, close to eight-in-ten (78 percent) of Americans are somewhat or very confident that their possessions, such as their car or home, are adequately insured if they were damaged or destroyed.



**Bret Kroencke**  
359-9391



**Chuck Rippy**  
586-5030



**Chris Greenwold**  
355-8675



**Dan Duitsman**  
469-2033



**John May**  
352-3341



**Austin Beaty**  
217-352-0012



**Steve Derry**  
352-2655



**Travis Heath**  
352-4555



**Keith Garrett**  
485-3010



**Jessie DeHaan**  
352-3466



**Stan Ochs**  
352-3296



**Terry Hill**  
469-9800



**Jim Nelson**  
892-4479



**Aaron Wheeler**  
586-6170



**Scott Jackson**  
359-9335



**Dawn Babb**  
892-4479



**Andrew Deedrich**  
359-3941





**MARK THORNSBOROUGH,**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

# From The Field

by Dr. Howard Brown

## PACKING EVERYTHING INTO THE SPRING OF 2019

**The amount of fall-applied nitrogen (N) is significantly less than planned.** Less than 20% of the anticipated fall N was applied in 2018 due to the rapid and prolonged change in weather the first part of November. New N management strategies need to be created that will adjust for the missed application window. The 2019 growing season will provide an opportunity to experience what it is like to push most of the N applications into a pre/post planting time. Cost of N will be greater, logistics to keep supply at terminals may be challenged, and equipment to make timely applications may be stretched. A warm, dry late-winter will resolve many supply and logistical challenges, but it cannot be scheduled in a calendar or included as part of a realistic strategy. Plan now for a Spring that includes additional farmers making N applications.

## N MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Knowing the timing and amount of rain events in 2019 would provide enough information to know when to apply the corn crop's N requirement with one application. However, since weather remains an unknown, planning for multiple applications utilizing different sources, times of application, and placement is a best defense to minimize N loss, maximizing utilization. *"If we use it, we won't lose it."*

**Start with a good estimate of amount of N required.** Nitrogen is the second greatest input cost in corn production and a primary concern to water and air quality when it is not utilized. It makes economic sense to focus on its management from both an economic and environmental perspective. Start with the N Rate Calculator to establish an economic base application. The N Rate Calculator takes into consideration the price of corn per bushel in relationship to the cost of N per pound. Maximizing yield per acre can sometimes be costly, especially if that last bushel of corn harvested requires significantly more N than was covered by the revenue it generates. The N Rate Calculator does not mandate the rate of N a farmer will apply. It only serves as a starting point for an N Management Strategy. Visit the website, follow the instructions and give it a try. <http://cnrc.agron.iastate.edu/>

**Sign-up for an N-TRACKER Plus Site in 2019.** The best N Management Strategy can easily be compromised with an unexpected change in the growing environment. Will it rain? Will it stop raining? These are common questions echoed at different times before or during growing season. Establish an **N-TRACKER Plus** Site to create a window into the soil to watch the dynamics (behavior) of plant-available N. How many pounds of N are detected in the upper two feet? What form is it in? Where is it at? How much N is needed? These are common questions that **N-TRACKER Plus** attempts to address. With six years of tracking experience, there is a significant level of confidence with integrity and interpretation of the test results. This year each site will also track two other essential nutrients that tend to move with soil water, sulfur and boron. Sound interesting? Give **N-TRACKER Plus** a try by contacting your local Illini FS Crop Specialist and sign-up. Want more information? Ask your crop specialist about N-TRACKER Plus for 2019 or simply visit our website at [www.n-tracker.com](http://www.n-tracker.com). Comments are welcomed.



***"The only management tool that keeps  
an eye on the 2nd greatest input cost  
and one of the top environmental  
concerns... Nitrogen."***

**Planning for a dry growing season.** Nitrogen should be applied as early as possible and injected into the soil. All nutrients must move to plant roots and N is no exception. It is to the plant's advantage that most of the plant-available N is in the nitrate-N (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) form. Having a negative charge allows the ion to freely move with soil water. With 95% of the water taken up by the plant utilized for cooling, there is a continuous avenue for N to enter the plant roots, a movement in the soil referred to as mass flow. Water comes from subsurface soil moisture under dry conditions. Nitrogen must be where the water is to enter the plant. There can be 2x the N requirement applied to the surface of a soil and the corn still show symptoms of deficiency (firing) if there is no soil water for it to move.

**What happens to N not utilized due to drought?** The drought of 2012 provided an example of what can happen when N is applied and not utilized. Over 200 fields were sampled for nitrate-N concentration following the harvest of 2012 but before any fall N was applied. On average, enough N was detected in the upper 12 inches of soil to meet the crop's N requirement. Unfortunately, there was no crop to utilize it. Elevated nitrate-N concentrations were detected late-winter of 2013 in several lakes as a result of the drought and unused applied N. Fall-applied N was not the primary source. The elevated concentration was an outcome of the 2012 drought, a fact that should not be forgotten.

**Planning for a wet Spring.** Nitrogen applications should be delayed as late as possible. Fall or early Spring-applied N will be the most vulnerable to loss processes.

If the primary N requirement will be applied pre-plant, a nitrification inhibitor, such as N-Serve (anhydrous ammonia) or Instinct II (UAN or urea) should be considered. A post-emerge strategy will limit N loss but increase the risk of not getting the N applied. Placement of post-emerge N can be injected, surface broadcast or banded (Y-Drop). The window for post-applied N tends to be a challenge in wet Springs. Consider using urea treated with Agrotain (NBPT) broadcast post-emerge. Agrotain protects the urea-N from volatilization for at least 10 – 14 days. Allow Illini FS to make this timely application.

**Denitrification.** Denitrification occurs when soils are saturated (pore space is filled with water) for an extended period of time. The loss process only occurs to soil N is in the nitrate-N form (only plant-available form containing oxygen). With the absence of soil air, oxygen is removed from NO<sub>3</sub>-N by anaerobic soil bacteria. Once oxygen is removed, the modified NO<sub>3</sub>-N becomes an unstable gas and is lost to the atmosphere. It takes approximately 24 -48 hours for denitrification to start. A loss of 5 -6% of nitrate-N per day is anticipated for each day the soil remains saturated.

**Leaching.** Leaching is the movement of nitrate-N with soil water as it leaves the zone of application. Soil texture tends to determine the potential for leaching losses. Soils with a higher content of sand (considered coarse-textured) tend to leach more than the heavier soils (containing significant clay). The larger soil pores make it easier for water to move downward in the soil profile. Medium-textured soils (silts or silt loams) are also prone to leaching. The increase use of subsurface tiling to remove excess soil water from medium-to-heavy textured soil provides an avenue for nitrate-N to be lost.

## HEDGE THE RISK OF N LOSS.

**Two-Pass Strategy.** Consider a combination of source, rate of application, time of application, and placement (the 4Rs) to create a Two-Pass N Management Strategy. Hedge the risk of dry weather with an early Spring N application (injected preferred). A nitrification inhibitor should be considered if applied well ahead of planting. Hedge the risk of wet weather by including a post-emerge application. Regardless of the efforts made (use of nitrification inhibitors), extended periods of saturated soil prior to May will result in N loss. Allow 2-3 weeks between applications to realize a difference as a result of a multiple N application strategy.

**Three-Pass Strategy.** Add an application of 30 to 50 pounds N pre-plant, usually UAN applied as the carrier for pre-plant (residual) herbicides. This strategy would reduce the percent of N applied post-emerge. The purpose of this application is to provide the young corn seedling a source of N when a primary pre-plant application of N is injected and corn residue is incorporated ahead of planting. Note: Allow 2-3 weeks between applications to realize a difference as a result of a multiple N application strategy. *Suggestion: Early pre-plant: 50%, Pre-plant with herbicides: 25%, Post-emerge: 25%*

## APPLICATION OPTIONS

**Early Pre-Plant.** Early Spring N applications tend to be susceptible to saturated soil conditions prior to plant uptake (2018 is an example in East-Central Illinois). Consider using a nitrification inhibitor (N-Serve or Instinct II) for N applications made well ahead of planting time. Slowing nitrification (conversion of ammonium to nitrate) keeps the applied N in the stable ammonium-N form (not susceptible to denitrification or leaching). *A suggested rate of application would be 50% of estimated N requirement.*

**Pre-Plant.** A broadcast application of 30 to 50 pounds of N is suggested when no N is applied pre-plant or pre-plant N is injected with no regard to the planted row. The application provides the seedling plant a source of N during the early stages of stand establishment. Residue worked into the soil prior to planting will promote microbial immobilization of soil N. Microbes will out-compete the young seedlings, possibly causing a temporary early-season N shortage. *A suggested rate of application would be 50% of estimated N requirement.*

**Planting-Time.** A planting-time application of N provides a readily available nutrient source to the young seedling. However, there is a significant investment in time and equipment to make this a part of an N Management Strategy. The cost vs. benefit of application timing and placement minimizes the adoption of this practice. *Rate of application depends upon placement.*

**Early-Post.** An application of N at the "early growth" stage (V3-V6) minimize the opportunity for N loss due to an early wet Spring. The early-post application can be injected (UAN/anhydrous ammonia) or surface broadcast (urea treated with NBPT). Surface broadcast urea treated with NBPT will result in a faster crop response to application due to placement but either should work equally, providing there is moisture to move the N into the plant. *A suggested rate of application would be 50% of estimated N requirement.*

**Late-Post.** Applications of N during the rapid stage of corn growth can be timely if N loss is significant pre-plant or early post. However, the risks associated with such an application should to be considered. Plants are rapidly growing. An untimely rain could increase the risk not making the application. High winds could tangle corn plants making it impossible for a ground application (aerial N applications much more expensive). There is a significant risk of not receiving adequate rainfall following application to get the applied N to the plant roots (normally dry in late June/early July). *A suggested rate of application would be 50% of estimated N requirement.*



# Clean Water Rule Talking Points

## #CleanWatersCleanRules

On December 11, 2018, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army (Army) proposed a revised definition for “waters of the United States,” which would establish the scope of federal regulatory authority under the Clean Water Act in a more clear and understandable way. The agencies’ proposal would be clearer and easier to understand than previous regulations. Below are a few talking points for you to share with neighbors and friends when you are visiting with them about current agriculture issues.

- Farmers and ranchers have every incentive to leave their land and natural resources in better shape for the next generation. Many farms have been in the family for several generations, and most states have programs to recognize farms that have been owned by the same family for more than 100 years.

- Land is almost always farmers’ and ranchers’ largest asset and primary source of income. Farm Bureau supports landowners’ right to use their land responsibly while protecting and enhancing water resources.
- Farm Bureau supports clean water and clear rules. Farmers and ranchers need a new water rule that protects water quality and provides clear rules that they can follow.
- A new water rule must be clear and specific. Farmers and ranchers should not have to hire teams of consultants and lawyers just to know if they can farm their own land.
- Clean Water Act rules today define regulated waters too broadly. They needlessly disrupt and penalize many commonplace and harmless activities on the land—even conservation activities.



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY  
FARM BUREAU NEWS**

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**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU**  
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Assistant Manager -- Bailey Edenburn  
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Contact us at (217) 352-5235  
www.ccfarmbureau.com

**Illinois Farm Bureau  
Pollinator Habitat Signs**

Field signs are available for farmers who have installed pollinator habitat on their farms or are otherwise managing their farm landscape to benefit pollinators. These signs are specific to IFB members and allow farmers to show neighbors and their community the good conservation work they are doing on their farms. A limited number of signs are still available, which you can order by going to the jot form link <https://form.jotform.com/JennyHarrison/PollinatorSigns>

**This farm supports  
POLLINATORS**

**This area provides  
food & shelter  
for bees & butterflies**

**Proper management allows  
wildflowers to flourish**

**Board of Directors continued from  
Page 1**

gether. Throughout the years I have been involved with the Women’s Committee and Prime Timers and I will remain active after retiring from the board.”

**LEE WATERS – St. Joseph Township**

Lee Waters marked his time on the CCFB Board of Directors by learning more about local politics and how they work. He says “I really enjoyed working with and collaborating with other board members.” A big piece of advice Lee wants to

*Lee Waters*

pass on CCFB members is to touch base with their township representative and talk one on one. Staying up to date on what is happening with the farm bureau is a positive thing and a great way to stay informed about current agriculture issues. According to Lee, several issues passed through the board during his tenure including the CCFB office remodel and figuring out new income streams as the health insurance program was dissolved. Looking forward, the agriculture industry is faced with many issues that need great ideas and innovative thinkers working toward solutions. “Informing the general public about agriculture and combating misinformation about agriculture is a significant issue that must continue to be addressed,” says Waters.

Farmers care about nutrients, just like

# MOM

Minimize - Optimize - Maximize

For a sustainable tomorrow

## CDL Prep Course

There will be a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) prep course on Saturday, March 9, 2019 from 9:00 - 11:00 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 1, 2019. 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

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

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

Registration Deadline: March 1, 2019



# Champaign County Farm Bureau

## 2019 Trips & Tours

### March 20, 2019 DIAMONDS DIVAS - CIRCA 21

A Hilarious Brand New “Whodunit — And What The Heck Did They Do?!”

Actors, thieves, and egos run hilariously amok at the Cannes Film Festival in France — what could possibly go wrong? In a luxury hotel, the body of a beautiful film star lies on the floor. A hooded jewel thief breaks in and discovers her. A man bursts in and assumes the thief is the murderer. Another man enters and assumes a different story. The hotel manager arrives and attempts to make sense of all their stories. A huge film premiere is looming, a diamond neck-lace has gone missing, scandalous affairs are about to hit the headlines, and everyone appears to be trying to murder someone while blaming everyone else! Laugh along with the high jinx as the mystery is unraveled.

**Price per person: \$115.00**

**Deadline to register, be paid in full or cancel: February 27, 2019**



### May 1, 2019 Steeple People - Meyers Dinner Theatre

A gospel quartet and their quirky pianist, Lola are hosting a charity clothes drive for their upcoming three city national tour of Ghana. Featuring more than twenty of the most be-loved gospel songs of all time including, “His Eye is on the Sparrow”, “Are You Washed in the Blood”, “It is Well With My Soul” and many more! You will be laughing and singing along with this cast of characters as they talk about their life in Stinking Creek, Tennessee!

**Price per person: \$73.00 (includes gratuity)**

**Deadline to register, be paid in full or cancel: March 25, 2019**

### JUNE 3-6, 2019 4 DAYS & 3 NIGHTS TRIP TO SHIPSEWANNA, IN

**Enjoy Three Shows at the Blue Gate Theatre and Tour the Amish Country**

#### A Simple Sanctuary

She prayed the day would never come, but when her past comes calling, Melissa James has no choice but to flee. Pursued and living on the run, she finds desperate sanctuary and surprising friendship in Amish country. Part suspense, part romance, A Simple Sanctuary is a compelling story of love tested, the cost of freedom, and the solace found in true community.

#### Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin Brothers

Dazzling audiences for more than 60 years since it all began in Abilene, Texas in 1955, when Larry was six, Steve was four, and Rudy was two. Since those days, the road the brothers have plowed has won them countless awards and has taken them to numerous concert halls, festival stages, national television shows and even the White House on several occasions. The brothers have seen their music top the charts and touch the lives of fans of all ages.

#### Daniel O'Donnell with Special Guest Mary Duff Live in Concert

The affable and unassuming international singing star Daniel O'Donnell, one of Ireland's best known performers from Australia to Alaska, continues to push out the boundaries of his career both on stage and TV in 2018 and 19.

- Shopping at the Flea Market
- Downtown free time
- Step on Guide/Grab Bag Tour - Amish candy maker, Carolyn's Kitchen,
- Quilt Garden & many other stops on the tour
- Amish Wedding Program & Wedding Fest
- Jayco RV Corporation factory tour

Trip includes: Hotel, motor coach transportation, 3 shows, tours with step on guide, Grab Bag-5goodies, 3-breakfasts and 2-dinners and 1-lunch

**Cost per person: \$675.00**

**Deadline to register, be paid in full or cancel: May 3, 2019**

### AUGUST 1, 2019 THE HONKY TONK ANGELS - THE BEEF HOUSE, COVINGTON IN

The creator of “Always...Patsy Cline” combines over 30 classic country tunes with a hilarious story about three gutsy gals who are determined to better their lives and follow their dreams to Nashville. The all-hit song list includes “I'll Fly Away,” “Stand by Your Man,” “9 to 5,” “Coal Miner's Daughter,” “Ode to Billy Jo,” “These Boots Are Made for Walking,” “Rocky Top,” and “I Will Always Love You.” This charming, foot-stompin' musical has played to sold-out audiences across the country.

**Price per person: \$75.00**

**Deadline to register, be paid in full or cancel: July 10, 2019**



### SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 THE PAJAMA GAME - THEATRE AT THE CENTER

This Tony Award winning best musical inspired the film starring Doris Day. There's trouble at Sleep-Tite pajama factory when workers demand a raise of 7 1/2 cents. Both sides are standing firm, but when the head of the Union Grievance Committee meets her new supervisor, love changes the game. This musical comedy romance includes favorites “Steam Heat,” “Hernando's Hideaway” and “Hey, There.”

**Price per person: \$105.00**

**Deadline to register, be paid in full or cancel: August 19, 2019**

### NOVEMBER 14, 2019 THE BEST OF THE BARN CHRISTMAS - THE BARN III, GOODFIELD

**The Barn III is proud to be the new home of Mary Simon and the Conklin Players!**

Drawing from our ten years of holiday revues, The Best of the Barn Christmas features our most popular musical and comedy performances to get you in the holiday spirit. It will be the ideal seasonal outing to celebrate with family and friends in our brand new Barn. The music will range from secular to sacred, including our own wonderful renditions of some holiday classics. Hilarious sketches will have you laughing till you cry, and our audience participation opportunities will put you in the center of the action!

**Price per person: \$80.00**

**Deadline to register, be paid in full or cancel: October 7, 2019**

**Please note the deadlines posted for each trip;** any cancellation, for any reason, must be made on or before the deadline posted for each individual trip to guarantee any refund. We ask that all day trips are paid for in full when you register and for overnight trips a deposit of \$100 per person is made at time of registration and rest due by deadline date.

**\*\*\* Gratuity not included in the price unless indicated\*\*\***

**Please feel free to share this information with friends, neighbors and family. We would love to add them to our list of travel friends.**

**Thank you and we look forward to traveling with you.**