



Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 97, No. 3

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

March, 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.”

Director Highlight - Craig Anderson

Craig Anderson is your new Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Director representing Newcomb Township. Craig has been around agriculture his entire life, “I’m the fourth generation to own and operate the family farm that was established in 1883. Growing up on the farm I had chores to do, walked beans, baled hay, etc. I went to Parkland College after high school and studied ag mechanics. During college, my dad found an opportunity for me to rent some land and begin farming with him. When the lease ended I needed to find other employment. I was lucky to be employed by the University of Illinois Department of Agronomy, which then merged with Plant Pathology to become what is now the Department of Crop Science. During my 29 years there I worked in Soil Fertility, Maize Genetics/Corn Breeding, and Vegetable Crop Research. While working at the U of I, I, along with my brother Brian, continued to farm our family farm and expand the operation to where it is today. After retiring from the University of Illinois in 2009, I returned to the farm full time, and continue today.”



Craig Anderson

conferences, etc. throughout the year to gather knowledge about trending agriculture topics. Other issues facing agriculture that Craig says he would like to address are, “What I would call, rural sprawl. That means all the folks that want to get away from the city, buy a small tract of land and build a house, but don’t realize they also have to interact with the farmers that work in the area. They don’t seem to understand the size of the equipment we are trying to move from field to field, and the speed at which they drive on the country roads is scary compared to the speed of our equipment.”

While there are a lot of issues to tackle, Craig also has a lot to be excited about especially what technology has to offer saying, “The many aspects of technology available for us to be more efficient, and

Continue Craig Anderson page 3

Director Highlight - Joann O’Connor

Joann O’Connor is now representing Scott Township on CCFB’s Board of Directors. Agriculture is in her blood. She says she grew up on a family farm west of Pesotum, IL. “My great grandfather, “Uncle Billy” Kleiss purchased acreage from the railroad after he and his wife emigrated from Germany. I am also proud that my great-great grandmother left Chicago after the fire and settled with her family east of Pesotum. Her son was one of the first graduates of the Illinois College of Law as established by the Smith-Lever Act. Eventually, I married a farmer and began my adventure!”



Joann O’Connor

Becoming involved in the farm bureau was a family tradition for Joann, “For me, it was a family thing. Mom and Dad were members as were their parents. Innovative concepts, a combined partnership with business professionals affiliated with Farm Bureau such as County Financial and FS (the Smith-Lever Act), gives the producer a competitive edge. Farm Bureau, because of all its resources and networking abilities, has the unique opportunity to forge policy through the legislative process that can affect not only the township I represent, but also have a worldwide outcome on agricultural policy.”

Joann is ready to spend her time on the board tackling agriculture issues head on including “Finding a consistent source of continuing educational opportunities concerning the long term effects of trade embargos, rising production costs and the impact that the multitude of other issues (local, national and international) is a big concern. It is my opinion Champaign County Farm Bureau has consistently designed programs to enlighten fellow citizens of the difficulties facing rural America. These issues include: a fair and equitable taxing system for all Americans, common sense food labeling,

affordable and convenient health care, food security for all, and agricultural awareness program for school children. By utilizing information shared at these programs, newsletters and other opportunities afforded, members are empowered to make informed decisions regarding their business.”

Being a new board member can seem overwhelming at first, just jump in and get your feet wet. Joann has a great attitude saying, “Most importantly, I need to absorb all that being a Farm Bureau member means. I’d like to see continued “awareness” educational programs offered or sponsored by CCFB. It is important that Champaign County Farm Bureau continues and expands its lobbying efforts to educate and provide informed solutions to all our elected officials on how the rural population

Continue Joann O’Connor page 3

Director Highlight - Amanda Zwilling

Meet new CCFB Board Member Amanda Zwilling, Young Ag Leader Chair. Amanda’s interest in agriculture took hold at a young age saying, “I grew up on a 40 Holstein dairy farm that my parents owned and operated in west central Minnesota. I helped my parents with chores and assisted my dad in fixing things that broke down on the farm. He was the brain; I was the eyes and hands. With every fix, I thought about how the equipment could be better made. Because of the dairy farm, I also had the great honor to serve my county as a dairy princess (dairy ambassador) for 4 years and was a state finalist my final year. I was also involved in 4-H and showed numerous livestock and non-livestock projects growing up.”

Once Amanda became aware of volunteer opportunities through the farm bureau becoming active seemed like a natural fit. “From my upbringing, I have had a desire to want to help answer people’s questions they had about agriculture. I had not heard about Farm Bureau and thus didn’t become involved until my husband brought me with

him to a Champaign County Young Ag Leader meeting years ago.”

During the year farm bureau board members are active throughout the county and state. They dedicate hours to learning more about agriculture and voicing their opinions about matters that affect them locally and globally. According to Amanda, her greatest area of concern related to agriculture is “consumers understanding of farming practices and the food they see in the store. Every year more people are disconnected from farming and with all the information that is presented via print, online, television, etc. it is growing more difficult to know what is and is not fact. Some misleading marketing labels on food products have also caused confusion in the grocery store. While on the board I would like to assist with programs aimed towards educating consumers about the products that they see in the stores and help answer questions they have about farming and the people behind the product.” Additionally, Amanda would like to dedicate time to the issues of commodities and trade.



Amanda Zwilling

Bringing energy and excitement to the board is easy to do when you are enthu-

Continue Amanda Zwilling page 3

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 4, 2019: Mental Health Seminar 6:30pm

Sandwich supper served: Registration required- See full article in newsletter

March 11, 2019: Regular Meeting 9:30am

*Speaker: Rachel Coventry/ Beekeeper/ Curtis Orchard
Honey will be available for sale*

April 8, 2019: Regular Meeting 9:30am

April 10, 2019: Spring Fling 10am

Women's Committee Opportunities Knocking

The Women's Committee of the Champaign County Farm Bureau is not an exclusive club, and there is no formal process to join this group of stimulating, diverse women, all with a passion for agriculture. All you have to do is simply arrive at any meeting that you note is posted in this newsletter. Our usual meeting day is held on the second Monday of each month at 9:30 at the Champaign County Farm Bureau auditorium.

Perhaps you have noticed the Women's Committee is sponsoring a Mental Health Awareness meeting on March 4th at 6:30 p.m. Mental health is an important issue in our country and community. 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.

Men and women are invited to join us and our special guest Linda Culton, MSW, LCSW from Carle. 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. A sandwich and salad supper will be served. Make your reservation by calling Brenda at 352-5235.

Here are some additional opportunities:

Our regular meeting on March 11th will feature Rachel Coventry, beekeeper at Curtis Orchard. Did you know that Curtis Orchard has been a honey producer winner in international competition? Rachel will share insights with us about her role at the Orchard and their award winning honey from the orchard will be available for purchase at the meeting. Please consider joining us.

Every year our committee plans a special day for women called Spring Fling. Our 2019 event will be held on Wednesday, April 10th starting at 10am. Our featured presenters this year will be a representative from Champaign County Crime Stoppers, a Care Choir from Sarah Bush Lincoln and also Natalie Kenny Marquez. Crime Stoppers is a crime fighting organization designed to reduce the amount of crime in our community. You will learn ways to protect yourself from opportunity crimes, as well as how to share tips that can lead to an arrest. The Care Choir is a unique group of talented musicians that provide a soothing presence to patients and individuals experiencing a difficult time. They will share information about their unique organization and Choir members will also sing for us. Natalie Kenny Marquez is from a Centennial farm family. She is a multitalented woman, both professionally and personally. Her focus will be heritage recipes. A delicious lunch will be served. The cost is only \$5.00. It is not too early to make a reservation now with Brenda at the Farm Bureau office by calling 352-5235. Watch for the April newsletter for additional information about our Spring Fling speakers.

CCFB Calendar of Events March 2019

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-------------|
| March 4 | Mental Health Seminar | 6:30 p.m. |
| March 9 | CDL Prep Course | 9 – 11 a.m. |
| 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. |

April 2019

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| April 4 | Young Ag Leaders | 6:30 p.m. |
| April 8 | Women's Committee | 9:30 a.m. |
| April 9 | Premier Ladies Marketing | 9:30 a.m. |
| April 10 | Spring Fling | 10 a.m. |
| April 11 | Prime Timers | 10 a.m. |
| April 16 | Legislative Committee | 7:30 a.m. |
| April 18 | Full Board | 6:30 a.m. |
| April 22 | Life Line Screening | |

February Report



President, Mike Briggs

As we head into March, hopefully warmer weather is on the way and we can finally put winter behind us. February was a busy month at the Farm Bureau. We had a number of meetings throughout the month and we appreciate your attendance. I would like to highlight two excellent meetings we hosted, one to learn about crop insurance and trucking regulations and the second one for succession planning. Despite the Farm Bureau's office being closed due to the Polar Vortex, we still had a booth at Gordyville's Ag Expo and enjoyed talking with everyone who came by. As warmer weather approaches, I hope things go smoothly for you as you prepare for planting.

Sincerely,
Mike Briggs

Join the Prime Timers!

March 14 starting at 10 a.m.

**Featured Speaker: Brad Zwilling,
FBFM**

Entertainment: Ken Honeker



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!

April 11

May 9

June 13

Young Ag Leaders Business Meeting

April 4th at 6:30 p.m.

Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium.

**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**

March 10

Craig Anderson continued from Page 1

profitable with the dollars we spend. Some of the examples would be the traits we now have in our seed to fend off above ground and below ground pests, auto guidance on our equipment takes some of the human stress out of putting in very long hours, variable rate technology allows us to put nutrients and seed in the proper place in the field to give us the greatest return on those investments.”

Craig’s spare time comes in spurts and when he has a free moment it is usually spent on the farm that he loves. “I’m a farmer through and through. We take a lot of pride and time in making our farms well maintained and looking great, those we own and those we farm for other owners. Don’t really have any hobbies like golf or fishing, etc. When not putting a crop in the ground or taking it out in the fall, I spend time doing the general maintenance required to keep the operation going. And..... my wonderful wife, Della, always has a list of house projects and lawn and garden projects to keep me occupied during the slower times. Maybe I’ll find some hobbies once I step aside from the day to day farm life.”

Amanda Zwilling continued from Page 1

siastic about the topic. Amanda says she is excited about technology in agriculture. “This is very broad but without the advancements in agriculture through technology, farmers would not be able to grow as much as they do on one acre of land, while also being even better caretakers of the land they farm. Advancements of technology in manufacturing have also led to quality complex machinery to be produced that decades ago would never have existed or would have cost exorbitant prices.”

In addition to Amanda’s role as Young Ag Leader chair, she stays very busy saying, “I like to continue to try to be a jack of all trades but a master of none. Right now I am busy chasing around two children so I haven’t been able to do hobbies, but when I do have time I like building and burning baby frames for friends/family, and various craft projects. While we have raised chickens on the farm, in a few years my husband and I plan to raise other livestock that our children can show in 4-H, and also use for our own consumption.”

Joann O’Connor continued from Page 1

of Champaign County is affected by each piece of legislation.”

Dedicating time to the board can also open up new avenues of information. Directors can find new passions or learn more about existing ones. Time is well spent and according to Joann she is bringing passion about agriculture to the table, “Education has always been a priority. And as a farmer wife, sometimes the best learning experiences are the common sense every day continuing education we get as we go about our daily routines. Some issues I’d like to address and/or learn about are:

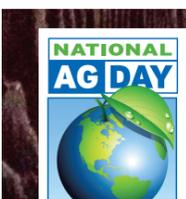
- Foreign policy and its effect on farm production. What can I do?
- Stewardship of the farm and its relationship to environmental resources maintenance, for example, the Mahomet Aquifer
- The importance of agricultural education in elementary schools, especially the “farm to table” concept and other Ag in the Classroom topics.

It’s an exciting time to be involved in agriculture. What makes it exciting? “The people who are fully invested in agriculture: their resilience, expertise, excitement, and pride that is evidenced by those working in research, product development, production, etc. Even the first year 4-Her exhibiting his/her livestock project!”

When Joann is not catching up on board minutes or tackling trending agriculture issues she can be found enjoying retirement. “Officially I’m a retired secretary from the University of Illinois, Champaign County Extension office. My days are filled with typical farm wife stuff depending on the season. I love spending time with family especially my two grandchildren! I also enjoy sewing/quilting, I’m a member of the CCFB Women’s Committee, I try to make it to the gym twice a week, I have a vegetable garden and can my produce in the summer (we truly are a farm to table family!) and attempt to grow a few flowers! Once in a while, I’m drafted to help with a cow or calf.”



MEMBERS ACCESS 302,000 BENEFITS



NATIONAL AG DAY
March 14, 2019



AGRICULTURE: Food for life.

American agriculture is the foundation of our country. It’s the backbone of a healthy and prosperous nation that’s made possible by the hard work of America’s farms and farm families.

Illinois Farm Bureau® is proud to celebrate the nutritious and plentiful contributions of our country’s farms on National Agriculture Day.

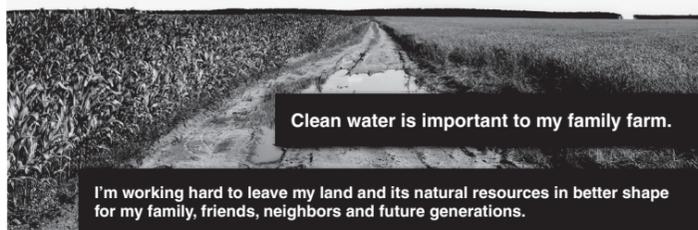


NOW IS THE TIME. MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD.

CLEAN WATER & CLEAR RULES

It’s time for clear rules that protect farmers’ ability to produce food, fiber, and fuel for our nation, while enhancing the natural resources we all depend on. The new Clean Water Rule announced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and

Army Corps provides clarity so farmers can comply with the law while protecting the environment, growing crops, and tending livestock. The new rule would end years of uncertainty over where federal jurisdiction begins and ends.



THE 60 DAY COMMENT PERIOD IS NOW! Together, we can make our voice heard. Send your support for clean water rules that are clear and easy to understand.

Text WATERS to 52886



Life Line Screening goes beyond regular checkups to look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build-up



All 5 Screenings for \$139

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Carotid Artery/Plaque Screening Ultrasound scan of the carotid arteries that screens for plaque buildup. | Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial Fibrillation) Screens for irregular heart beat. | Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Screens for an aneurysm in the abdominal aorta, which could rupture. | Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening Screens for peripheral arterial disease in the lower extremities. | Osteoporosis Risk Assessment Ultrasound screen of the shin bone to determine abnormal bone mass density. |
|--|--|--|---|--|

We will be in your neighborhood soon Date: 4/22/2019

Location: Champaign County Farm Bureau

Get your special Community Circle pricing!

Three ways to register:

Call toll-free: 1-800-679-5609

Online: www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle

Text: the word circle to 797979



Getting Screened is Simple!
Painless, non-invasive, keep your clothes on.



Screening results are provided to you in 21 days. We direct all participants with abnormal results to take the report to their physician. All tests are for screening purposes only. You should consult with your personal physician regarding your screening results. Insurance Note: Life Line Screening does not participate in the Medicare program and the cost of our screening services is not covered or reimbursable by Medicare. Life Line Screening does not file insurance claims. Screenings in California are provided by Life Line Mobile Screening, a physician owned practice. Screenings in Kansas are performed by Life Line Screening of America, Ltd. on behalf of Life Line Screening Physicians, P.A. Screenings in New Hampshire, New Jersey and New York are performed by Life Line Medical Screening, LLC (Dr. Andrew Manganaro, 70 Niagara Street, Buffalo NY, 14202). Life Line Screening does not engage in the practice of medicine in those states. This information is not intended to induce referrals by Life Line Screening to Life Line Medical Screening, LLC for any professional medical service. Texas residents: Physician authorization is required. A Life Line Screening affiliated physician will provide authorization for you if you qualify. Cancellation Policy: A full refund is issued if you call to cancel at least 2 days prior to your appointment. If less than 2 days’ notice is given, we will issue a Gift Card for the full amount to be used, to purchase future screening services.



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KIRK BULTA
Executive Director



SARAH KAPER
Earth Partners Director

EARTH PARTNERS

Making sure your local students are ... **GROUNDING IN AG!**

Here is where we have been recently...

Champaign

- 4th grade "Happy Birthday IL" lessons
- 2nd grade chocolate farming



Fisher

First grade enjoyed a lesson on hay last fall and utilized several other resources. We hope to be back there in the Spring!

Gifford

We had a great lesson on farm economics last Fall, and hopefully will be back there in the Spring!

Heritage

- FFA "Students as Teachers" lesson
- K-4th lessons on livestock, nutrition, and Illinois



Ludlow

- K-2nd grade lessons on pork
- K-2nd grade and 7th-8th chocolate farming



Mahomet

- 1st grade livestock lessons
- 2nd grade "Happy Birthday IL" lessons
- 1st grade chocolate tasting
- Ag leadership presentation - MSHS
- 1st annual STEAM night - MSHS



Prairieview-Ogden

- Presented at teacher in-service
- K-1st lesson on pizza
- 2nd grade - "What's in a Tootsie Roll?"
- 3rd-4th grade renewable resources lessons



Rantoul

- 5th grade STEM lessons planned for March

St. Joseph

We are visiting this school for the first time in March. Thank you to Lindsey Mulvaney for the connection!

Thomasboro

We want to visit this school! Can you help connect us?



Unity

- Beef, Dairy, Pork, Equine, Illinois History
- Ag Mags delivered

Urbana

- 4th grade "Happy Birthday IL" lessons
- 4th grade beef & dairy lessons



St. Thomas

- 2nd -3rd grade livestock lessons
- 2nd -3rd grade chocolate farming

1,316 – Students received lessons in agriculture

77 – Teachers received free ag related teaching resources

1,675 -- Ag Mags distributed



Topics: **Chocolate** (sustainable farming practices), **Livestock** (cows, chickens, sheep, goats, pigs), **Happy Birthday Illinois** (state symbols, top crops, soils), **Renewable Resources** (how and why farmers care for the soil), **Where Does My Pizza Come From?** (farm to plate), **Leadership**

Quote of the Month: "My second graders thoroughly enjoyed learning about Tootsie Rolls. They had so much fun they didn't realize they were learning about history, map reading, nutrition labels, crops, climate and Illinois!" – Kathy Izard, 2nd Grade Teacher Prairieview-Ogden



PLANT A SEED!

Encourage your school administrators and teachers to utilize our FREE resources!

You're Invited!



As someone who is involved in agriculture, you understand how important it is to educate others about our industry. It is imperative that they know what we do, how we do it, and how it impacts our daily lives. Seeds of knowledge and curiosity must be planted at a young age. Earth Partners is doing just that...and in a big way! Over the past 6 months, Sarah Kaper, a certified teacher and Director of Earth Partners, has been teaching students about agriculture in classrooms all over Champaign County. On average, 1,000 students per month are experiencing hands-on lessons about agriculture in a realistic and modern way. **These lessons are being presented in a manner that conveys truth and builds confidence in modern agriculture. That's exciting!**

While the resources are free to students and teachers, they are not truly "free". Through the end of March, the **Grounded in Ag** campaign will raise funds in support of Earth Partners for the coming year. **Will you help us make sure that the students in Champaign County are Grounded in Ag?**

Please join us at one of the Grounded in Ag events below to make your donation, visit with others, and learn more about the mission and outreach of Earth Partners!

KAFFE COFFEE SHOP - MAHOMET IGA

Monday - March 25th - 7:30am-9:00am

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU AUDITORIUM

Monday - March 25th - 3:30pm-5:00pm

DEWEY STATE BANK

Tuesday - March 26th - 8:00am-9:30am

"MOO THRU" DRIVE THRU - SIDNEY DAIRY BARN

Tuesday - March 26th - 3:30pm-5:00pm

GIFFORD COMMUNITY CENTER

Wednesday - March 27th - 7:30am-9:00am

MONICALS PIZZA - TOLONO

Wednesday - March 27th - 3:30pm-5:00pm

Can't make an event? Make your donation by....

Mail: CCFB Foundation - 801 N. Country Fair- Ste. A - Champaign, IL 61821

Online: www.ccfbfoundation.com / **Phone:** 217-352-5235 (CCFB Office)

Text Message: Text "grounded" to 56651 and follow prompts

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.

Scholarships

Nothing warms the heart on a cold winter day like watching a young person actively work towards their dream. We're proud to work with students who are, year-round, pursuing their goals of a college education.

As the cost of education continues to rise, so does the number of students who can't afford to go to college. While the CCFB Foundation scholarship program doesn't solve every financial burden; it's our goal

to make school just a bit easier for Champaign County students.

Our students are leaders in their schools and communities. They are committed to changing the face of agriculture for the better, and they excel academically. Even with these qualities, the financial need is real. Even a \$1,000 scholarship can lighten the load for our extraordinary student leaders.

The CCFB Foundation scholars' program doesn't just provide funding to students, it encourages students in a very public way. By receiving a CCFB Foundation scholarship, our students know that their individual scholarship donor, and their community, believes in them. Sometimes, that's even more important than the money.

For our donors, extending a scholarship can also be a unique way to celebrate a community member, or a loved one. Funding a scholarship is easier and more affordable than you might think! If you'd like more information on giving a scholarship, or how you can help make a difference, please contact CCFB Foundation Executive Director, Kirk Bulta at kirk@ccfarmbureau.com or by calling our office at 217-352-5235.



**MARK THORNSBROUGH,
GENERAL MANAGER**



ON-FARM DISCOVERY TRIALS have addressed several production questions involving fungicide use, nitrogen management and crop response to a sulfur application. Results from 2018 trials are available in the 2018 Illini FS On-Farm Discovery Report. Request a copy from your local Illini FS Crop Specialist. See for yourself how locally tested products and practices performed both agronomically and economically with the 2018 growing environment. Trials for the 2019 discovery season will include testing the need for zinc and/or boron in corn production, increasing planting rate in corn and decreasing planting rate for soybeans. An economic evaluation of each treatment will accompany harvest yield results in the 2019 Report this fall. Increasing harvest yield is only part of improving farm profitability. Revenue generated from more bushels must exceed any increase in input costs from additional inputs used... what our On-Farm Discovery Reports will provide.

WATCH-OUTS for SPRING 2019

Be prepared for delays. Fall 2018 weather conditions, coupled with 2019 winter weather so far, suggest there will be more work to do in a shorter period of time than past planting seasons. The challenges created as a result of the compressed Spring Season may be amplified due to larger planters, earlier planting dates, and planting both crops at the same time. Work closely with all involved with your operation (hired help, ag retailers, family) to prevent miscommunication about what is needed, when it is needed, where it is needed. Make sure to properly match-up the appropriate herbicide with the corresponding seed technology (a bad day when it is not properly matched).

Think twice before changing weed control programs. Think twice about dropping residual herbicide programs to expedite planting. Weed control will likely be a significant production issue over the next several cropping seasons with the continued development of herbicide resistant weeds. Dropping a pre-plant application of residual herbicides and adding a pre-emerge option may alter the effectiveness of a weed control program, increasing the risk of weed escapes. A wet period following planting may result in missing the window for pre-emerge applications. Once the crop emerges, herbicide applications are considered post-emerge, not pre-emerge. Small coleoptiles of corn or hypocotyls of soybeans that are breaking through the soil surface make the exposed tissue vulnerable to pre-emerge herbicide injury. Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist about pre-emerge weed control options to make sure the change will provide control of your specific weed spectrum and that a timely application is possible considering weather conditions and application schedules.

More N does not mean higher yields. Nitrogen is needed to optimize grain yield but it is not directly correlated to yield. Increasing N application rates does not directly increase harvest yield. In fact, excessive N applications will result in reduced farm income and potentially a negative impact on air and water quality. Use the N-Rate Calculator Maximum Return to Nitrogen (MRTN) rate as the basis for determining the amount of N to apply. Once the base application rate is determined, adjustments up or down can be made, but start with the MRTN rate. To learn more about the N Rate Calculator visit <http://cnrc.agron.iastate.edu/>. Iowa State University hosts the website used by seven Midwest land-grant universities (Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan).

Learn about the behavior of N in your fields. Use N rate trials to learn what the optimum N rate is in your fields, using your farming practices and based upon your harvest yield. N Rate Trials have been supported financially by the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association (IFCA) and the Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC) over the past several years, providing new data for the Illinois MRTN Calculator. Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist about hosting a N Rate Trial in 2019 to learn more about N dynamics in your fields while providing data that helps other farmers make better decisions regarding the rate of N to apply. The best way to learn about the behavior of N in the upper soil profile is to establish an N-TRACKER Plus site. Contact your Illini FS Crop Specialist to learn more about this new N Management Tool or to sign-up for a site in 2019. It works!



N-TRACKER Plus is a N Management Tool created and developed by Illini FS to help farmers make better N management decisions (focusing on M.O.M.)

Avoid the temptation of taking shortcuts. The urge to eliminate steps to optimize time will be significant this Spring. Make time to think through any increase in risk of making a mistake when cutting a step to save time. Assumptions are common when we are in a hurry and many times they can be wrong. Communication is essential when trying to economize on time. There is no room for saving time when it comes to safety. Be aware of your surroundings and of other helpers that are working with you, especially those future farmers that just want to help and are always at your side. **Accept no risk** when the little ones are around.

MINIMIZE RISK OF AMMONIA BURN. No-till. Avoid placing anhydrous ammonia below seed placement this Spring. Sidewall compaction caused by wet soil and the applicator knife creates a pathway for free ammonia to travel up.

Exposure to free ammonia will stop or slow the young seedling's. Under dry conditions water stress is amplified due to the lack of primary root growth (avenues for water uptake). Apply the anhydrous ammonia at a significant angle to avoid exposing the row to long stretches of free ammonia, especially in the wetter areas of the field (Figure 1). Slight angle applications still expose a significant length of row to free ammonia (Figure 2). If planting parallel to the direction of application, place the anhydrous ammonia at least 3 to 5 inches away from the future corn row if a guidance system is available. This should be far enough away to avoid ammonia burn but should be close enough to serve as a starter band of N to the young root system.

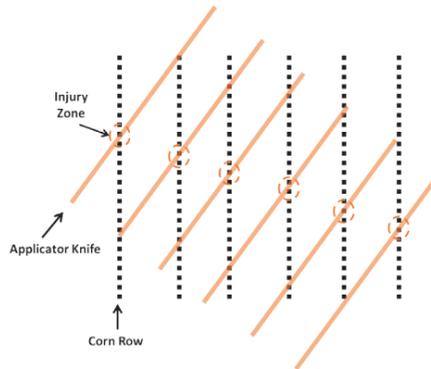


Figure 1. Significant applicator angle minimizes risk of ammonia burn to planted row.

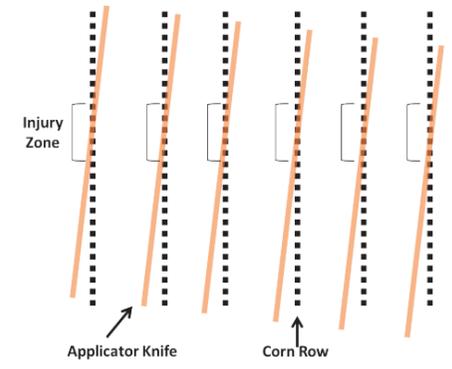


Figure 2. Slight applicator angle increases risk of ammonia burn to planted row.

Secondary tillage prior to planting will minimize risk of burn. Make sure there is a zone of loose soil between the applicator knife slot and seed placement. A zone of loose soil above any applicator knife sidewall compaction should minimize risk of ammonia burn. Free ammonia captured by air space within the applicator slot will likely become an ammonium ion before coming into contact with the primary root system. Allowing for 2-3 inches of loose, moist soil should minimize provide adequate protection.

Depth of placement. Making a deeper application of anhydrous ammonia to minimize risk of ammonia burn is not suggested. Ammonia burn is most common when soil conditions favor sidewall compaction at the time of application. Regardless of placement depth, sidewall compaction will still be an issue in wetter-than-desired soil. As long there is a continuous path upward from the depth of application (space between knife sidewalls) to seed placement, ammonia burn may occur. If anhydrous ammonia will be placed deeper than 5-6 inches, make a broadcast application of 50 pounds or more of N pre-plant (herbicide carrier) to provide the young plants an N source for early growth. The deeper N is placed, the longer it will take to get it into the plant (roots must grow close to the band of application).

Wait-time for tillage following an anhydrous ammonia application. Allow 3-4 days following an anhydrous ammonia application for the ammonia gas to become ammonium-N. The reaction needed to transform ammonia to ammonium (captures a hydrogen ion from water) may only take a few hours, but additional time should provide a buffer for most of the change to take place. Free ammonia can still remain in the knife slot (sidewall compaction) for an extended period of time, even in moist soil.

Wait-time for planting following an anhydrous ammonia application. Allowing for 1-2 weeks following an application should minimize the risk of ammonia burn. Unfortunately, there is no safe wait-time if sidewall compaction occurred at the time of application and the corn seed is to be placed directly above the N application (Image 1-2). With no-till, make the anhydrous ammonia application at a significant angle to planting (do not plant into the anhydrous knife track). With conventional/conservation till, make sure there is a band of loose soil between the knife slot and the planted seed.



Image 1. Ammonia burn of primary root system caused by planting above applicator sidewall compaction.



Image 2. Sidewall compaction caused by applicator knife and wetter-than desired soil conditions.



Nathan Hubbard
COUNTRY Financial
Agency Manager



Rhonda Wagner
Administrative Assistant
Champaign Agency

2018 Champaign/Vermilion Agency End of the Year Update

2018 was another successful year for COUNTRY Financial and the Champaign/Vermilion Agency. Corporately, COUNTRY Financial continues to be the largest farm insurer in Illinois and the fifth largest in the United States with nearly 47,000 farm policies in force.

Nathan Hubbard was named the agency manager of the Champaign/Vermilion Agency Jan 1, 2018 and just completed his first year.

The agency continued to thrive in 2018 by attaining nearly all corporately set objectives and achieving All American status. The following financial representatives qualified for the very prestigious All American designation in 2018. This award is given to those financial representatives exemplifying excellent client services and new sales productions. Our 2018 All American qualifiers are...

- Jim Nelson (Rantoul)
- Scott Jackson (Champaign)
- David Harby (Danville)
- Chris Greenwold (Champaign)
- Bret Kroencke (Champaign)
- Travis Heath (Savoy)
- Dan Punkay (Urbana)
- Steve Derry (Champaign)

Finally, on behalf of COUNTRY Financial and our local financial representatives, I would like to thank the Champaign County Farm Bureau and COUNTRY Financial clients for their continued support. We look forward to serving you now and in the future.



Dan Punkay
328-0023



Bret Kroencke
359-9391



Travis Heath
352-4555



Chuck Rippe
586-5030



Keith Garrett
485-3010



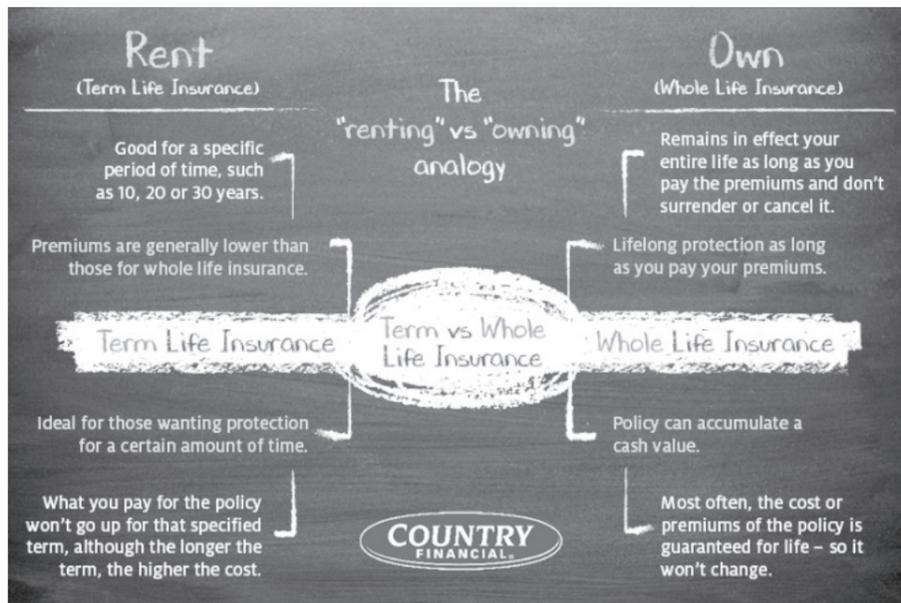
Chris Greenwold
355-8675



Jessie DeHaan
352-3466



Dan Duitsman
469-2033



Term vs Whole Life Insurance

If somebody asked you about the difference between term and whole life insurance, could you tell them? If not, we don't blame you. Life insurance can seem overwhelming, but it doesn't have to!

An easy way to think about term vs whole life insurance coverage is comparing them to the idea of renting or owning a home, where term life insurance would be "renting" and whole life insurance would be "owning."

Term Life Insurance

- Good for a specific period of time, such as 10, 20 or 30 years
- Premiums are generally lower than those for whole life insurance
- Ideal for those wanting protection for a certain amount of time
- What you pay for the policy won't go up for that specified term, although the longer the term, the higher the cost

Whole Life Insurance

- Remains in effect your entire life as long as you pay the premiums and don't surrender or cancel it
- Lifelong protection as long as you pay your premiums
- You can accumulate a cash value
- Most often, the cost or premiums of the policy is guaranteed for life - so it won't change



Stan Ochs
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Aaron Wheeler
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Andrew Deedrich
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Steve Derry
352-2655

Talking Points of the Month

Topic: Climate Change

Have you found yourself standing around the coffee pot at the local gas station and debating with friends and neighbors about agriculture issues? Each month CCFB will highlight a trending agriculture topic and provide you with talking points. Stay up to date with the most recent information from Champaign County Farm Bureau and the Illinois Farm Bureau.



- Farmers deal continuously with weather variability, and we acknowledge there is climatic variability.
- Farmers work tirelessly to improve their resiliency to weather and climatic events, through improving soil health, and their management of water and other precious resources. Farmers rely

on healthy natural resources, and must be both profitable and environmentally responsible to make a living.

- Solutions put forth to address climate change must be crafted using sound, peer-reviewed science, and we believe that voluntary, market based approaches will provide the best way forward for agriculture. In the last climate change policy debate – about 10 years ago – nearly every proposed legislative solution was designed to increase energy costs, which would have substantially increased a farmer’s cost of production, with no guarantee of a return.
- The recent federal report on climate change shows potentially drastic changes for agriculture in the Midwest, including higher temperatures and more intense spring rains, leading to the potential for higher nutrient loss and soil erosion. Farmers have tackled those issues head on in recent years by investing in science and implementing practices that reduce negative impacts to the environment.

- In Illinois, farmers directly invest in university research to learn about managing nutrients more efficiently, utilizing cover crops to improve the resiliency of soils, and to look at carbon cycles in agriculture.
- Farmers utilize best management practices such as no-till and reduced tillage, grassed waterways, buffer strips along streams, and cover crops to improve soil health and to conserve our natural resources.
- Agricultural technology is constantly adapting to meet needs of farmers; shorter and longer season crop varieties are being developed to help us adapt to weather variability.
- Farmers utilize a variety of tools and government sources of data to help them make decisions. For example, Illinois’ Water and Atmospheric Resources Monitoring Program (WARM), which helps them evaluate soil temperatures, soil moisture, long term weather trends, and pest issues. They utilize drought monitors and climate hubs for critical informa-

tion as they plan their days, weeks, and seasons.

- Farmers have personally invested time and energy in developing clean-burning biofuels - both ethanol and biodiesel – and work to increase the amount of those fuels used in our nation’s motor fuel supply and the exports of renewable fuels to help our trading partners reach their clean air goals.
- In conclusion, farmers have always had to be resilient to weather and climate fluctuations. They care for the land they farm. It’s what feeds their families and enhances their communities. Farmers are always learning and making improvements in their management practices. They’re installing conservation practices and enhancing the soil, the water, and the natural areas around them for the benefit of the environment and for their business. They want to be a part of the solution because resiliency is their business.

You can learn more by visiting <https://www.ILFarmersconserve.com>

Featured Trip – Register Now!

May 1, 2019: Steeple People – Meyers Dinner Theatre • Registration Deadline: March 25, 2019 • Price per Person: \$73 (includes gratuity)

Travel with CCFB to Hillsboro, Indiana, located approximately one hour from Champaign. Hillsboro is located in Fountain County, sitting between Indianapolis, Lafayette, Terre Haute, and Danville. The drive to Hillsboro will pass by some of Indiana’s most beautiful State Parks with sweeping views, rolling hills, rock formations, and even waterfalls.

Meyers Dinner Theatre has been offering patrons quality entertainment and homemade meals for almost 25 years! On this trip, you will be a guest in Meyers 145 seat theatre viewing the play *STEEPLE PEOPLE* about a gospel quartet and their quirky pianist, Lola. They are hosting a charity clothes drive for their upcoming three city national tour of Ghana. Featuring more than twenty of the most beloved 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!

themed restrooms at Meyers Dinner Theatre! Each of the eight restrooms has been designed to create a fun tour experience for guests. Check out the

Fishing Lodge, Victorian, Noah’s Ark, or Outhouse which is a patron favorite!



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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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 -- Bailey Edenburn
Communications Director -- Lesley Gooding
Administrative Assistant -- Brenda Wood
Membership Director -- Deidra Ochs
Earth Partners Director -- Sarah Kaper
Foundation Director -- Kirk Builta

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

Meyers Dinner Theatre is also home to B & H General Store. Browse the General Store and find unique gifts, clothing, and jewelry. No doubt one stop on this trip will be to see the

| 2019 TRIPS/TOURS AT A GLANCE | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 3/20 | DIAMONDS DIVAS - CIRCA 21 Deadline 2/27 |
| 5/1 | STEEPLE PEOPLE—MEYERS DINNER THEATRE Deadline 3/25 |
| 6/3-6/6 | SHIPSHEWANNA, IN Deadline 5/3 |
| 8/1 | THE HONKY TONK ANGELS - THE BEEF HOUSE Deadline 7/10 |
| 9/12 | THE PAJAMA GAME - THEATRE AT THE CENTER Deadline 8/19 |
| 11/14 | THE BEST OF THE BARN CHRISTMAS - THE BARN III, GOODFIELD Deadline 10/7 |



Annual Meeting Highlights

Honoring CCFB's Retiring Board Members



Urban Ag Leader of the Year Award



(L-R) Patti Petrie, Urban Ag Leader of the Year & Mike Briggs, CCFB President

Deputy of the Year Award



(L-R) Deputy Dwayne Roelfs & Mike Briggs, CCFB President

Ken Roellig Volunteer of the Year Award



(L-R) Ken Roellig – Dedicated CCFB Volunteer, Paul Berbaum- Volunteer of the Year, & Mike Briggs - CCFB President

CCFB Annual Meeting Attendees

