



Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 97, No. 5

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

May, 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.”

Derek Harms attends IFB Leaders to Washington

Derek Harms, CCFB Board Member, joined 20 plus Illinois Farm Bureau members on the IFB Leaders to Washington trip held in March. This whirlwind trip included 3 days of meetings with policy-makers, representatives, and organizations in Washington, D.C.

This group, led by IFB staff Adam Nielsen and Ryan Whitehouse, began their Leaders to Washington activities with a briefing for the group. During the briefing, the group decided to focus on three priorities during their time in Washington. The priorities included trade, infrastructure, and thanking people for their support of the Farm Bill. A fourth priority, E-15, took hold during the briefing and became a topic of discussion during the week.

The first meeting of the trip was at the Canadian Embassy. The group met with Gizem Eras, Counsellor, and received a briefing on USMCA which included discussion of steel and aluminum tariffs and the Canadian Election being held in October.

Day 2 was an early morning meeting with the EPA. The group discussion centered on E-15, Dicamba, Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act (PRIA), and Biotech Seed. A briefing later that morning with AFBF, educated the IFB group on a lot of trade numbers and information. Derek says, “The briefing really showed us how much trade is hurting. For example, U.S. soybean trade is down 20% globally.”

Four members of the group, including Derek, met with U.S. Representative John Shimkus. The group focused on the three priorities established on the first day. Shimkus also left the group with a couple of thoughts for the future including an increased gas tax to help with infrastructure and the consider-



ation of a mileage tax. Derek pointed out that a mileage tax “is on the horizon to cover electric vehicles.”

The entire group reconvened and was able to meet with the House Ag Committee staff, Tammy Duckworth, and Dick Durbin. Representatives and Senators want to hear personal stories from the local farmers. Derek said, “Our group was able to share great stories and talk about how farm income is hurting.”

Thursday was another busy day filled with meetings and information. Meeting with the Assistant Secretary for Rural Development brought some great, eye-open-

ing information about the opioid epidemic in rural areas and some success stories too. Ted McKinney, Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agriculture Affairs, assured the group he was confident that trade deals would be done and Japan and the EU may come on board too. According to Derek, “the group was reassured that those in charge of trade are actively looking for new markets.”

The final push for the trip came with meetings at the USDA, Risk Management Agency (RMA), and the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The group learned about the statistics that help determine crop insurance at RMA and FSA spoke to working on Farm

Bill language and all that goes into making things work on a county level. The group wrapped up the trip with a meeting at the Eisenhower Building with Economic Advisors to the Trump Administration.

After full days of meetings, the group was able to enjoy nice, relaxing dinners, some free time, and even walked past the White House. Getting home took a bit of time with a flight delay, but after a good night’s sleep, Derek was able to reflect back on his first Leaders to Washington trip and say, “I encourage everyone to go once. It was a great experience. Our representatives really do want to hear from us!”

2019 Winter Member Survey

Every year, Champaign County Farm Bureau asks CCFB members to complete a Member Survey. The results of this survey allow us to plan meetings and workshops designed to give you information for the issues facing agriculture in Champaign County. This year’s results allowed us to bring some great speakers to CCFB Viewpoint Meetings to address your questions and concerns that you indicated were of high importance in the member survey.

The first set of questions on the survey centered on **Data Confidentiality**. Respondents answered the following questions...The confidentiality of data (yield maps, soil test results, inputs applied) from your farm is critical. **Do you believe your data is safe?** 83 people responded somewhat safe; 26 felt very safe; and 19 people do not feel safe at all. **Do you feel you have a clear understanding of what’s being done with your data and whom it may be shared with?** 52 respondents indicated NO; 42 indicated YES; while 35 people indicated they were unsure.

In response to the data gathered from the survey, CCFB featured Luke Zwilling at the Viewpoint Meetings held in March. He was able to discuss the privacy of your farm data and also discussed the American

Farm Bureau Federation’s Privacy and Security Principles on Farm Data. (For more information see article on page 2, “Ag Data Confidentiality”)

The next set of questions on the Member Survey asked CCFB members about **Health Insurance**. CCFB wanted to know what type of health insurance members currently have by asking, **is your health insurance:** Health Care Marketplace plan – 43 ; Spouse’s Employer provided – 29; Farm operator via off farm employment – 16; Medicare – 45; No health insurance – 4. This was followed up by asking, **what aspects of health insurance are most concerning to you?** 18 respondents indicated **Access** was most concerning; 44 indicated **Quality** concerned them the most; **Affordability** was the top answer for 105 people. Bret Kroencke, COUNTRY Financial Insurance Representative, spoke at CCFB’s Viewpoint meetings to answer questions and give information regarding health insurance.

The topic of **Income Taxes** was the next set of questions geared towards CCFB survey takers. **The State of Illinois has fiscal challenges, would you be in support freezing the state’s flat income tax rate currently at 4.95% or raising it?** 68 respondents indicated support at freezing the current

rate at 4.95%; while 5 respondents indicated support for raising the tax. **Do you support a graduated income tax rate that adjusts the actual rate paid based on the level of income you have?** Responses included Yes -45; No-76.

To gauge interest in additional topics CCFB asked **would you be interested in a meeting or more information on the prospects of growing hemp commercially?** Responses were Yes-51; No – 76.

An additional topic of concern is water and water quality, **as we continue to learn more about the Mahomet Aquifer, potential rapid recharge areas may be confirmed. Should these areas be protected, keeping in mind it may include farmland?** Yes -111; No-9. In response to the overwhelming number of yes votes to this question, George Roadcap offered his expertise on the Mahomet Aquifer at CCFB’s Winter Viewpoint Meetings.

Finally, we asked, **what agricultural topics are your non-farming friends and neighbors most concerned about?** Several options were given with the top 3 responses being #1 GMO/ Pesticide Use, #2 Food Safety, #3 Water Quality.

May Report

President, Mike Briggs



As I write this column I think the only good thing I can say about April is we had a nice Easter and I hope you were able to enjoy some time with family. The cold, wet, and windy days made it tough on farmer's nerves waiting to get in the fields. We definitely had some rough weather in central Illinois but we were blessed to miss some of the devastation that hit states to the west. As we move into May I hope we also move into a favorable weather pattern for this growing season.

I am looking forward to the summer months and opportunities to be out and about at our local fairs and festivals. I know the summer is always busy but I hope you will be able to make it out to a few farm bureau events.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Deidra Ochs on her upcoming retirement. Her last day will be this month and she will be greatly missed. She has been instrumental in helping the Farm Bureau manage our membership.

Sincerely,
Mike Briggs

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

No regular meeting in May

May 18: *Playing it Safe Outreach Event- 9:30 AM*

Leonhard Recreation Center, 2307 West Sangamon Drive, Champaign

June 10: *Regular meeting 9:30 AM*

Lunch at Casa Del Mar (Old Milo's Location)

Join the Prime Timers!
May 9 starting at 10 a.m.

Speaker: Bret Behrens, WCIA Sports
Entertainment: Dyke Courson,
Courson Music



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!

June 13
July 11

CCFB Calendar of Events

May 2019

May 9	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
May 14	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 a.m.
May 18	Playing it Safe	9:30 a.m.
May 27	Memorial Day	Office Closed
May 28-29	Defensive Driving	

****Most committees do not meet in May due to planting season****

June 2019

June 3	Marketing Club	TBA
June 6	Young Ag Leaders	TBA
June 10	Women's Committee	9:30 a.m.
June 11	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 a.m.
June 13	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
June 18	Legislative Committee	7:30 a.m.
June 20	Full Board	6:30 p.m.

Ag Data Confidentiality

Recent Member Survey results indicated that Champaign County Farm Bureau members have questions and concerns about ag data security and privacy. Luke Zwilling, an ag data analyst with Nutrien, addressed these concerns at the CCFB's Viewpoint Meetings held in March. Luke provided information to meeting attendees about AFBF's work to establish Privacy and Security Principles for Farm Data in 2014. Currently, these principles are referred to as "Core Principles." These principles are "basic guidelines that ag tech providers should follow when collecting, using, storing, and transferring farmers' ag data."

The "Core Principles" and information listed below are taken directly from www.agdatatransparent.com. Please visit this site for more information and to view the list of organizations that have agreed to follow these principles.

The recent evolution of precision agriculture and farm data is providing farmers with tools, which can help to increase productivity and profitability. As technology continues to evolve, data principles should be adopted by each Agriculture Technology Provider (ATP).

It is imperative that an ATP's principles, policies and practices be

consistent with each company's contracts with farmers.

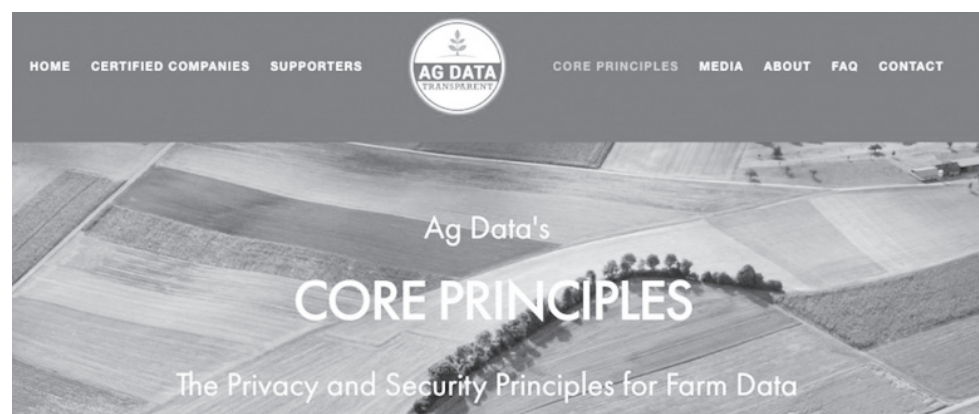
Education: Grower education is valuable to ensure clarity between all parties and stakeholders. ATPs should strive to draft contracts using simple, easy to understand language.

Ownership: We believe farmers own information generated on their farming operations. However, it is the responsibility of the farmer to agree upon data use and sharing with the other stakeholders with an economic interest, such as the tenant, landowner, cooperative, owner of the precision agriculture system hardware, and/or ATP etc. The farmer contracting with the ATP is responsible for ensuring that only the data they own or have permission to use is included in the account with the ATP.

Collection, Access and Control: An ATP's collection, access and use of farm data should be granted only with the affirmative and explicit consent of the farmer. This will be by contract agreements, whether signed or digital.

Notice: Farmers must be notified that their data is being collected and about how the farm data will be disclosed and used. This notice must be provided in an easily located and readily accessible format.

Transparency and Consisten-



cy: ATPs shall notify farmers about the purposes for which they collect and use farm data. They should provide information about how farmers can contact the ATP with any inquiries or complaints, the types of third parties to which they disclose the data and the choices the ATP offers for limiting its use and disclosure. An ATP's principles, policies and practices should be transparent and fully consistent with the terms and conditions in their legal contracts. An ATP will not change the customer's contract without his or her agreement.

Choice: ATPs should explain the effects and abilities of a farmer's decision to opt in, opt out or disable the availability of services and features offered by the ATP. If multiple options are offered, farmers should be able to choose some, all, or none of the options offered. ATPs should provide

farmers with a clear understanding of what services and features may or may not be enabled when they make certain choices.

Portability: Within the context of the agreement and retention policy, farmers should be able to retrieve their data for storage or use in other systems, with the exception of the data that has been made anonymous or aggregated and is no longer specifically identifiable. Non-anonymized or nonaggregated data should be easy for farmers to receive their data back at their discretion.

Terms and Definitions: Farmers should know with whom they are contracting if the ATP contract involves sharing with third parties, partners, business partners, ATP partners, or affiliates. ATPs should

FFA HIGHLIGHT

St. Joseph-Ogden FFA

by Mallory Ames, SJO FFA Reporter



“Success comes to those who are too busy to look for it.” What a perfect way to describe the start to the 2019-2020 St. Joseph-Ogden FFA year. Electing a new officer team, competing in section and district Career Development Events, as well as preparing for Section 17 Elections are just a few of the many things the St. Joseph-Ogden FFA chapter is competing in and preparing for.

Recently, the SJO FFA had 2019-2020 officer elections which required applicants to complete an application, interview with a selected panel, compete in a popular vote, and write and deliver a speech in front of the chapter members and advisor. This coming years’ officers are as

follows: Mallory Ames (President), Tessa Smith (Vice President), Lindsey Aden (Secretary), Brock Loschen (Reporter), Brodie Sullivan (Treasurer), Brodie Landreth (Historian), Rachel Wilson (Sentinel), and Ross Booker (Plot Manager). The newly elected officer team is eager to get started and is looking forward to an eventful year!

In March and early April, the chapter had a variety of CDE teams and individuals compete in section and district competitions. The chapter had a team compete at the district Parliamentary Procedure competition with the following team members: Mallory Ames as Chairperson, Tessa Smith as Secretary, Brodie Sullivan, Ryan Miller, Brodie Landreth, and

Abby Schlueter, all as floor members. The team placed fifth overall, Mallory Ames placed seventh as Chairperson, Tessa Smith placed sixth as Secretary, and floor members Ryan Miller and Abby Schlueter placed tenth and eleventh.

Two members participated in the district Public Speaking CDE. Lindsey Aden competed in the district “Prepared Speaking” sector, and Mallory Ames participated in the district “Job Interview.” Lindsey presented a speech educating disconnected American people about agriculture. Mallory placed third by completing a job application, phone interview, in person interview, follow up letter, and submitting a cover letter, resume, and

references.

The next event the St. Joseph-Ogden FFA will be participating in is the Section 17 FFA officer elections. SJO FFA members Mallory Ames, Lindsey Aden, and Tessa Smith will be presenting speeches on April 30th at Parkland College in hopes to be elected. Each candidate has previously submitted a resume and is currently preparing officer speeches.

As the 2018-2019 year came to an end, and the 2019-2020 year begins, the St. Joseph-Ogden FFA officers look forward to the achievement in the coming year!



Ag Data Confidentiality continued from Page 2

clearly explain the following definitions in a consistent manner in all of their respective agreements: (1) farm data; (2) third party; (3) partner; (4) business partner; (5) ATP partners; (6) affiliate; (7) data account holder; (8) original customer data. If these definitions are not used, ATPs should define each alternative term in the contract and privacy policy. ATPs should strive to use clear language for their terms, conditions and agreements.

Disclosure, Use and Sale Limitation: An ATP will not sell and/or disclose non-aggregated farm data

to a third party without first securing a legally binding commitment to be bound by the same terms and conditions as the ATP has with the farmer. Farmers must be notified if such a sale is going to take place and have the option to opt out or have their data removed prior to that sale. An ATP will not share or disclose original farm data with a third party in any manner that is inconsistent with the contract with the farmer. If the agreement with the third party is not the same as the agreement with the ATP, farmers must be presented with the third party’s terms for agreement or rejection.

Data Retention and Availability: Each ATP should provide for the

removal, secure destruction and return of original farm data from the farmer’s account upon the request of the farmer or after a pre-agreed period of time. The ATP should include a requirement that farmers have access to the data that an ATP holds during that data retention period. ATPs should document personally identifiable data retention and availability policies and disposal procedures, and specify requirements of data under policies and procedures.

Contract Termination: Farmers should be allowed to discontinue a service or halt the collection of data at any time subject to appropriate ongoing obligations. Procedures for termination of services should be

clearly defined in the contract.

Unlawful or Anti-Competitive Activities: ATPs should not use the data for unlawful or anti-competitive activities, such as a prohibition on the use of farm data by the ATP to speculate in commodity markets.

Liability & Security Safeguards: The ATP should clearly define terms of liability. Farm data should be protected with reasonable security safeguards against risks such as loss or unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure. Policies for notification and response in the event of a breach should be established.



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KIRK BULTA
Executive Director



SARAH KAPER
Earth Partners Director

Know a teacher?

Make sure they know about SUMMER AG INSTITUTE!

Each year the CCFB Foundation offers through Earth Partners/Ag in the Classroom the opportunity for teachers to complete professional development units through its Summer Ag Institute. Teachers learn about agriculture and how to incorporate it into their classroom activities and learning objectives in a way that is fun, fresh, and never boring! In addition, they will leave with FREE lessons, resources, and ideas that will have their students engaged and create memorable learning experiences. **SPOTS ARE LIMITED...SIGN UP TODAY!**

Summer Ag Institute

June 4-6, 2019

8:30-3:30

**Parkland College
Tony Noel Building
2400 W Bradley, Champaign**

**CHAMPAIGN-PIATT-
FORD-IROQUOIS**

A \$50 registration fee includes:

- Activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day
- Delicious snacks and meals
- Farmer's Panel
- Fun Field Trips
- Resources for your classroom
- 21 Professional Development Units
- STEM activities for the classroom



For more information or to register contact:

Sarah Kaper
217.352.5235
sarah@ccfarmbureau.com

Thank You!



Our sincerest "thanks" to the following businesses who made teaching local students about agriculture a priority and generously donated to the Grounded in Ag campaign. **Please remember to support those who support the future of Champaign county agriculture when choosing your next supplier, product, or service provider!**



Arends Hogan Walker	Bank of Rantoul	Royal Insurance Agency
Beaird Insurance Agency	Bayer Crop Science	Shaff Implement
Brandt Consolidated	Becks Hybrids	Sidney Dairy Barn
Community Tire & Lube	Bretzlaff Farms	Stone Seed Group
Country Financial-Jim Nelson	Claymore Realty	Stutsman Ag
Country Financial-Dawn Babb	Dewey Bank	Suits Ag Services
Duden & Silver Heating & Cooling	Galen Dale DDS	Sully2 LLC
Ehler Brothers Company	Gifford State Bank	The Andersons
Farmers Ag Service, Inc.	Gordyville, LLC	Top Flight Grain
First State Bank of Forrest-Mahomet	Hicksgas	United Fuel
Fisher National Bank - Fisher	Illini FS	Village Garden Shoppe
Fisher National Bank - Mahomet	Kesler Farms	Waibel Farmland Services
Gordon Farms Seed Co.	Lawrence Crop Insurance	WDWS Newstalk 1400
Hoveln Heating and Cooling	Ludlow Coop Elevator	William Hatch, Atty.
I&I Womens Auxillary	Murray Farms - Murray Seed	Wishall Transport
Insurance Providers Group	Ogden Metal Works	Wolken Trucking
Kemper Industrial Equipment	Paxton Ready Mix	Babb AgriSales
Kenneth Hieser Insurance	Ronk Adjusters	Schoonover Sewer

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.

Time... Talents ... Services... Make YOUR Impact!

Want to make an impact on the CCFB Foundation, and the future of agriculture? Please know that money isn't the only answer! Many times, the Foundation needs extra volunteers, a unique skill set, or would greatly benefit from an in-kind service. These donations are every bit as valuable to us as money, and often times can have a huge effect on the success of our programs and events. Our volunteer opportunities range from as little as "one time" ...to "all the time"! How much you give or are committed is always up to you, and you are welcome to try out different areas/tasks until you find the

one where you feel most engaged. No matter your availability or skill set, we can always find a place for you at the CCFB Foundation! Below are some ideas where you might find a place to make your impact!

EARTH PARTNERS NEEDS:
Do you love working with children? We need volunteers in the classroom who understand agriculture. The more classroom visits we can provide the larger the impact we have! **Are you "crafty" or would rather be behind-the-scenes?** Extra hands are always helpful to help prepare materials and kits or deliver them to schools for use by our coop-

erating teachers.

SPECIAL EVENTS: *Are you a "people person" and like to have fun and socialize?* We're always in need of fun loving, energetic, and creative volunteers to help us prepare and execute special events. Summer ag camps and our golf outings are right around the corner, and work on the Harvest Gala starts this summer! Help as little or as much as you like, and there are many different tasks/events to choose from.

OTHER NEEDS: *Have a special talent or provide a unique service?* Let us know about it! The CCFB Foundation often

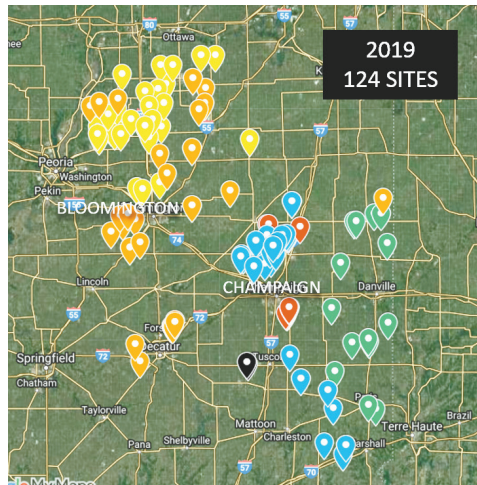
needs assistance with graphic design, photography, videography, social media marketing, and other specialized tasks. Donating your special talent or service could really help us "raise our game" and grow the impact!

Ready to give the valuable gift of your time or special talents the CCFB Foundation? Have another idea about how you can help us make a difference? We want to hear from you! Please contact CCFB Foundation Executive Director, Kirk Bulta at kirk@ccfarmbureau.com or by calling our office at 217-352-5235.



MARK THORNSBOROUGH,
GENERAL MANAGER

N-TRACKER Plus samples have been collected from over 80 sites so far. Sites are distributed throughout the Midwest. Illini FS serves farmers in Champaign, Clark, Douglas, Edgar and Vermilion counties. Evergreen FS, Inc. serves farmers in Dewitt, Livingston, Macon, McLean and Woodford counties. Test results have arrived for many sites, comments are being added, and reports are being generated. Here is an overview of what the data is showing from the sites sampled.



2019 N-TRACKER Sites distributed throughout Midwest Illinois. Participating farmers are working with Illini FS and Evergreen FS, Inc.

Fall-applied N is still there!

The amount of plant-available N (PAN) detected at sites receiving fall-applied N (with N-Serve) suggest what was applied is still within the upper 2 feet of the soil profile.

30 to 50% of fall-applied Anhydrous Ammonia is still $\text{NH}_4\text{-N}$. Sites reviewed to-date commonly show 30 to 40% of the N remaining in the stable ammonium-N form. This should change within 10-14 days once the soils warm up and the microorganisms have a chance to convert it to nitrate-N (called nitrification). Expect most of the applied N to be in the nitrate-N form as we move into May. Applications of N-Serve, Instinct will delay the conversion of applied ammonium-N forms to nitrate-N (called nitrification inhibitors). The length of delay will be based upon the rate used, soil temperature and moisture. ESN, a slow-release urea-based fertilizer, will also delay the conversion of applied N to the nitrate-N form. Fields that tend to remain saturated for extended periods of time may benefit from the use of a Spring-applied nitrification inhibitor or slow-release form of N. Try to incorporate ESN when applied to fields with little residue. ESN tends to float and move with significant rain events if left on the surface.

30 to 50 lbs. residual N detected at most sites. An additional 30 to 50 lbs. of PAN (beyond what was applied) has been detected at most sites where fall N was applied. It is assumed that the additional N is “background” or residual N expected within the soil profile after harvest. Historically, (testing for six years) a similar amount of N has been detected following the soybean harvest. Some N-TRACKER Plus sites are following corn. It will be interesting to see if there is more-or-less residual N following a corn crop compared to a soybean crop. A complete evaluation of the data will need to wait until all sites have been reviewed. There are no sites, so far, that have detected less N than was applied in the fall.



Surface erosion caused by significant winter rains. Rainfall over the winter months has been common over the past three years.

throughout the summer for updates about our 2020 effort.

Increased loading of phosphorus anticipated. Most of the phosphorus ending up in surface water and eventually the Gulf of Mexico is the result of soil erosion (insoluble phosphorus). Heavy rains over the winter months caused significant soil erosion even with conservation tillage or no-tillage (Image 2 and 3). Most of the soil phosphorus loss in our area is related to soil movement. Increased soil loss through erosion, increases total phosphorus found in surface waters connect

60 to 90 lbs. of PAN commonly detected following soybeans. Historically, 60 to 90 lbs. of PAN have been detected at sites following soybeans that have received no fall-applied N. This is considered a baseline concentration of PAN. The concentration detected exceeds the residual N concentration found when fall-N has been applied (10 to 30 lbs.).

Want to learn more about N-TRACKER Plus? Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist or visit our website that is dedicated to the N management tool at www.n-tracker.com. Learn more about the Illini FS High School Outreach Programs by visiting www.nu-tracker.com. We will be launching a new approach starting in September 2019. Visit our website

to field surface drainage. Make a map of areas most heavily eroded. Visit with your local Soil and Water Conservation Specialist to determine if there are some conservation projects available that can help minimize such losses in the future. The soil is a non-renewable natural resource. Any effort to minimize soil loss pays back both directly (harvest yield) and indirectly (soil is an asset).

Watch for weed escapes.

Weather delays in pre-plant preparation time has allowed some weeds to become established, especially the winter annuals. Although chemical (herbicides) or mechanical (tillage) control measures should be effective, be vigilant and watch for regrowth or localized breaks in control programs. Killing weeds is much easier before or soon after they emerge. Allowing weeds to become established may result in costly eradication and/or loss in harvest yield. Make time to scout fields or have someone scout for you. Illini FS is always looking at new technologies to help our customers with weed management. We are utilizing the services of Intellinair’s AGMRI to use aerial imagery as an Early Warning System for field challenges, such as weed, insect and disease outbreaks. Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist about AGMRI and what we hope to learn.



Erosion along outside of waterway causing surface erosion. Waterway maintenance is needed to correct problem.



Henbit, a winter annual weed, becoming established in a no-till soybean field in East-Central Illinois.

N-TRACKER Plus continues to draw attention to three nutrients: sulfur, zinc and boron. Sulfur tends to be the most common when it comes to low soil test results. Many sites show a common low concentration throughout the upper 2 feet. An application of 15 pounds of sulfur is commonly suggested to test for crop yield response. The sulfur should be applied as a sulfate-S, a form found in Ammonium Thiosulfate (ATS), Ammonium Sulfate (AMS) or Calcium Sulfate (Gypsum). Sulfur can only enter the plant in the sulfate-S form. Elemental sulfur is insoluble in water and must be converted to sulfate-S by microbial action before it can be utilized by the plant, a process that would take too long for early plant utilization this growing season.

The concentration of zinc in the upper soil profile is low based upon soils tests taken at 0-7 inches, 0-12 inches and 12-24 inches. An application of zinc pre-plant is suggested to test for crop yield response. A common fertilizer considered is ammoniated zinc (15% Zinc). It can be commonly mixed with many pesticides and UAN at a rate of 1.5 to 2.0 quarts/acre. Always test product compatibility with a Jar Test before mixing a full load.

Boron is an essential micronutrient that has a narrow range between deficiency and toxicity in the soil. The nutrient concentration has been reported low in both plant tissue and soil samples over the past few years, but the concern over phytotoxicity has discouraged much application work until recently. An application rate of 0.25 to 0.5 pound of boron/acre pre-plant is suggested to test for crop yield response. Boron should not be placed in the seed furrow where it may directly contact the seed or germinating seedling. Always test product compatibility with a Jar Test before mixing a full load.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A low soil test level does not assure there will be a nutrient deficiency. Soil test results used by N-TRACKER Plus are just indicators of soil nutrient concentration. The tests just suggest there is a possibility of a nutrient deficiency when the results fall below specific trigger concentrations.



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COUNTRY Financial
Agency Manager



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Stan Ochs
352-3296



Terry Hill
469-9800



Jim Nelson
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Catching Up With Rhonda Wagner

Administrative Assistant Champaign/Vermilion Agency

I can't believe that almost a year has passed since I came to the Champaign Vermilion Agency. I am getting settled in with the drive 3 days a week to the Agency office in Champaign. It has been a great year getting to know the Champaign Representatives and their assistants. It definitely makes my day very interesting with being in two different locations. I love working with all of my COUNTRY Financial family!

We, as a family, always have things going on. My husband, Tom and I, are technically "Empty-nesters" but we are always busy. I have recently become interested in photography and love taking wildlife pictures. Our oldest son, Mason is completing his 2nd year working as an Electrical Engineer at Cummins Diesel and has made the move closer to Indianapolis from Columbus, IN. Our youngest son, Riley, is getting ready to complete his 3rd year at SIU-Carbondale studying Computer Engineering. He has been fortunate enough to get to work at Boeing Int. as an intern this summer in St. Louis. We are looking forward to visiting this summer when the Chicago Cubs are in town.

To sum up the year, I am very fortunate to have a wonderful family at home and at work. Look forward to working with everyone for many years to come.



Rhonda Wagner
Administrative Assistant
Champaign Agency



Bret Kroencke
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Chuck Rippy
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Chris Greenwold
355-8675



Dan Duitsman
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John May
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Scott Jackson
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Dawn Babb
892-4479



Andrew Deedrich
359-3941

Farm Bureau Members in Action!



Governmental Affairs



Prime Timers



Women's Committee Meeting



Women's Committee Spring Fling

Illinois Farm Bureau® Talking Points on Priority Issues

Stay informed with monthly talking points so you can keep your neighbors and friends up to date on trending agriculture topics.

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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.org

China/Tariffs/Trade

Our recent efforts (action request, media relations) achieved the following:

- More than 6,000 messages to Capitol Hill and the White House by more than 1,500 advocates (a 50 percent increase in response over our recent tax reform calls to action)
- Called attention to how agriculture functions – economic and market processes
- Drew attention to timing; with declining net farm income, proposing tariffs now comes at the worst possible time
- Created an urgency to negotiate toward an agreement with China
- Drew praise from those in Washington (at the White House, USDA, in Congress) who agree with us on the importance of trade

Re: talk of compensating farmers for lost trade revenue through Commodity Credit Corp.:

- We appreciate the acknowledgement that farmers could lose money
- We'd hope to preserve farm income through markets. We've spent many years building export demand. Past trade wars have taught us that markets are quick to disappear and slow to return.
- We question how costs would be offset
- Because there is no specific proposal, it is difficult to comment in detail

TPP

- IFB has always supported U.S. inclusion in TPP and would support the administration in efforts to re-join
- The eleven other TPP countries are important trading partners today and represent significant growth opportunities for sales of U.S. farm commodities in the future
- Reduced tariffs on pork and beef and increased access for dairy, wheat, and other products through TPP will enhance Illinois sales to the region



Viewpoint Meetings



Young Ag Leaders & Collegiate Farm Bureau enjoy an Illini Baseball game

American Queen Steamboat Upper Mississippi Cruise

9 DAYS – August 2-10, 2020
From \$3,362*

About this trip

JOIN THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU’S Lois Wood & Mary Beth Kurasek on Mark Twain’s Mississippi. Many would argue that Samuel Clemens, best known by his pen name Mark Twain, is quite simply one of America’s greatest authors. On this magnificent journey along the Upper Mississippi River, you will discover the beauty of the region from the unique perspective of the river. Our included Hop-on Hop-off tours allow you to explore Twain’s childhood hometown of Hannibal, Missouri; the town from where much of the inspiration for his beloved classics such as *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is derived. You will not want to miss this opportunity to share the Mississippi River with Mark Twain.

Highlights

• Local departure from Central Illinois cities • Choice of Accommodations • All meals with beer and wine at dinner • Includes extra features like taxes, crew tips and travel insurance • Shore excursions included at each port with optional premium excursions at extra cost • Tour host accompanies the group throughout to assure all goes well

Details

Cruise package operated by American Queen Steamboat Company. All prices are per person, based on occupancy, call for triple & quad rates. **Call for single rate for double staterooms. • Document required is government-issued photo ID like drivers license. • Insurance coverage included is Deluxe Group Plan from Travel Guard and for coverage details see steviejaytravel.com/insurance covering cancellation charges; other terms at steviejaytravel.com/terms which are incorporated by reference. • All entertainment, events, tours and prices are subject to change without notice. Springfield & Decatur pick-ups cost \$50/person extra.



Day 5 – Dubuque, Iowa – Shortest and steepest railroad in the world



Day 8 – Hannibal, MO – Mark Twain’s home

Early Birds... get to go!

While it may seem early to be booking this cruise for August of 2020, here are the reasons to do so:

- This is very popular itinerary that sells out far ahead of an ordinary Caribbean Cruise
- Unlike being on ship with 3,000 to 5,000 people, the riverboat only holds 417 passengers
- The 3 riverboats of American Queen Steamboat Company together only have 9 such Upper Mississippi sailings—less than the capacity of a 3,000 passenger cruise liner that sails weekly or twice weekly multiplied by dozens of such ships
- Your package price includes Travel Insurance so if you become ill or have an accident and can’t go, you will get a full refund of all but the insurance premium—even the day of departure.
- The travel insurance includes family members and traveling companions. See the insurance description for details: steviejaytravel.com/insurance
- *All categories booked online are on a “request basis” and if not available with American Queen, you will be given the choice of another category(ies) or you may cancel for a full refund.*

ITINERARY



Day 1 – Sunday – Champaign/Bloomington/Minneapolis

Day 2 – Monday – Minneapolis/Red Wing

Day 3 – Tuesday – Red Wing, MN

Day 4 – Wednesday – La Crosse, WI

Day 5 – Thursday – Dubuque, IA

Day 6 – Friday – Bettendorf, IA

Day 7 – Saturday – Burlington, IA

Day 8 – Sunday – Hannibal, MO

Day 9 – Monday – Alton/Champaign/Bloomington

BOOK YOUR RESERVATION NOW

Call: 217-840-9913

Online: www.StevieJayTravel.com

Mail a check: Stevie Jay Travel LLC, 4413 Trostshire Cir, Champaign, IL 61822



The Grand Staircase on the queen of American steamboats