


2020 Census – Why is it so important?

The 2020 Census is in high gear. American households have been sent forms so everyone in our country can be counted. Why is it so important to be counted? The census count determines federal funding for programs including education, highway construction, and services that are needed in areas to serve certain populations. The 2020 Census will directly impact every one of us by determining funding and congressional and state legislative districts.

Farming and agriculture will feel the effects of the 2020 Census. Brad Uken, CCFB Manager, encourages all members to take a few minutes and fill out the census form saying, “We all must participate in the census. I have completed the survey for my family. It’s easy and takes less than 15 minutes. However, the impact is huge as it pertains to supporting our local schools and road districts that are vital to our county and getting agricultural products to markets.”

The funding of programs determined by the census and where the money goes impacts each community in our county. Vic White, Prairieview-Ogden Grade School Superintendent, points to census data and its importance for local schools, “The Census data is the foundation for allocation of billions of dollars of federal education aid to States and localities using formulas that factor

United States[®]
**Census
2020**




Every household across the country must respond.

Get Counted!


Online.


Phone.


Mail.


It only takes
10 min.
to complete!

Visit my2020census.gov to complete your survey online. Need assistance completing your survey?
Call 844-330-2020 to speak with a Census Bureau worker that can help you over the phone.



in population and poverty levels. To name a few: Title I, Title II, National School Lunch Program, etc. plus multiple grants to the State of Illinois (Special Education, Pre School, etc.). So the Districts where children attend schools will be underfunded if not properly reported. Therefore, if the census is not reported or done properly it could lack the resources available to that district and negatively affect all students in that district.”

Scott Amerio, Superintendent Rantoul Township High School, also stresses the importance of taking the time to fill out the census form, “I

know some people may think how important is one person when we are talking about hundreds of millions of people in the United States? However, if enough people share that same thought, it can negatively impact our state and local communities. From a school perspective, an accurate census will help ensure that federal money is going to the states and ultimately to the schools that need it the most. This helps school districts in their attempts to provide some relief to the local property taxpayers from that burden. An accurate census also ensures that we have the proper representation

in our state and federal legislatures. Having legislators that can carry our concerns and issues to these bodies is crucial for our communities.”

If you are interested in how Champaign County is responding to the census you can visit the Census Bureau’s Response Rate Map online. This map will give you very detailed numbers on response rates with several different ways to view the map by state, county, municipality, census tract, congressional district, etc. As of April 13, Champaign County’s self-response rate is 51.2%. These numbers are updated daily. Half of the county’s residents are counted, as of mid-April, leaving a lot of work for Census workers this summer.

Ashley Cravens, IFB’s Political Advocacy & Engagement Coordinator says “Thorough self-responses are the best way to avoid a home visit from census workers. As of now, self-response deadlines have been extended through August 14. Field operations have also been suspended until at least April 15. Households that have not responded to the survey will receive a paper questionnaire in the mail.” The census matters to all of us. It’s a team effort; we all have to take time to fill out the census form.

Ways to Respond

1. [My2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)
2. 844-330-2020
3. Paper questionnaire

COVID 19 OFFICE CLOSURE

As of printing, the Champaign County Farm Bureau office is closed to the public. For the health and safety of our members and staff we are following the stay at home order issued by the governor. We will reopen the office when state officials allow us to do so. If you need to pay membership dues, please visit www.myifb.org to either join the CCFB as a new member or to renew your dues. Staff will be checking voicemail and email so if you have a question feel free to reach out to us and we will respond. Also, before you head out to the office or any event listed in this publication please check www.ccfarmbureau.com or call the office at 217-352-5235 for updates.

May Report

President, Mike Briggs



As we head into May, we are still facing numerous questions about how the summer is going to look. Thankfully many farmers have had the opportunity to get some crops in the field which has helped things to feel more like normal. With schools being closed for the remainder of the year, I'm sure there has been some additional help on some farms. I hope everything is progressing well with planting and everyone is having a safe season.

In relation to Covid-19 and the Farm Bureau, we are still operating even though things look a little different. Brad and I are having weekly calls with the Illinois Farm Bureau to stay on top of information. The main webpage for Illinois Farm Bureau (www.ilfb.org) provides a link to information regarding Covid-19 that has many useful resources. We are working on different programs to try and help our members as well as our communities. Thank you for working with us through this time and please be safe.

Sincerely,
Mike Briggs

Join the Prime Timers!

May 14, 2020 at 10 a.m.

Tentative - Subject to Change

Speaker: Kelsi Kessler,
State of Illinois County Fair Queen

Entertainment: Chrissy Sparks



Gerald Henry, Prime Timers Chairman

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month

Lunch cost - \$8

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

June 11, 2020

CCFB Calendar of Events

**Due to COVID 19 many meetings
have been canceled or postponed.**

**Please contact the office at 217-352-5235
to check the status of meetings currently listed.**

Staff is checking email & voicemail.

May 2020

Committees do not meet during this month due to planting

May 12	Premier Ladies Marketing	9:30 a.m.
May 14	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
May 20 & 21	Defensive Driving	8 a.m. – noon

June 2020

June 4	Young Ag Leaders	
June 8	Women's Committee	9:30 a.m.
June 11	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
June 16	Governmental Affairs	7:30 a.m.
June 18	Full Board	6:30 p.m.

Women's Committee

(Tentative) Schedule of Events Mark Your Calendars

***July 8, 2020 ***

CCFB Auditorium
Participate to Cultivate
(formerly Spring Fling)

August 5, 2020

CCFB Auditorium

Jim Roberts, Director of Environmental Health at
Champaign-Urbana Public Health District
“Everything You Have Wanted to Know About
Inspections of Food Service Establishments
in Champaign-Urbana and Champaign County”

Defensive Driving

CANCELLED

**8 a.m. to Noon @ Champaign
County Farm Bureau Auditorium**

Cost \$17/per person

RSVP by Friday, May 15

217-352-5235

Your Illinois Ag News Now.

• Sign up at FarmWeekNow.com/Newsletter

• Daily e-newsletter
starts your day off

• All ag, all Illinois



FarmWeekNow.com

**Breaking COVID 19 news impacting
Illinois Farm Families available at
www.ilfb.org**

Farm Safety Awareness

By Champaign County Sheriff Dustin D. Heuerman

Those of us who grew up in rural areas know how to drive during farming season. Unfortunately, not everyone has had this learning experience. As such, we have to prepare for some of the motoring public to make unintelligent decisions. While there is not a lot farmers can do to prevent that impatient driver from acting recklessly, there are some things that can help. Making sure slow-moving vehicles are clearly marked is one thing that can help. While not always possible, avoiding busier roadways with slow moving equipment is also a safer idea. Lastly, if parking machinery or vehicles along a roadway, make sure to have them off the roadway as much as possible and use any installed caution lights to warn motorists of the roadway obstruction.

Many criminals are motivated by opportunity. The more difficult it is

to damage or steal farm equipment, the less likely it will be damaged or stolen. Most burglars want the biggest “bang for their buck” with the least risk possible. Closing and locking barn doors and closing blinds in unoccupied houses will reduce the chances of a burglar seeing something they want to steal, making it not worth the risk and entice them to move on to somewhere else. Because some burglars will ring your doorbell to see if someone is home before they try to break into your house, having a video doorbell such as “Ring” or noticeable surveillance cameras is a good investment. Make sure you lock your doors and shut your windows if you are not home, including locking your vehicles.

First and foremost, look out for your neighbors. If you see a suspicious vehicle, try to get a license plate and

call it in to METCAD (333-8911) to have a deputy dispatched to the area. Even if you don’t think it is a big deal, we have no problem sending a deputy to drive

through to help deter any mischief that might be occurring. Many times, simply seeing a patrol car in the area is enough to deter criminal activity.



Maggi’s Membership Corner

By Maggi Maxstadt, CCFB Membership & Outreach Coordinator

Behind the Scenes of Membership: What I’ve Been Up to Since the Office Has Been Closed to the Public



Like most, there were adjustments made around how work was getting done during April. Champaign County Farm Bureau staff were working

outside of the office for you, the members. My tasks fell into four categories: membership questions, reports, streamlining, and office work. Here’s how work was the same (and different) for me.

Just because I wasn’t in the office did not mean I was inaccessible for membership questions. Besides the occasional head-scratcher, questions kept on coming from members and COUNTRY Financial Offices around the state. I also took the time to peruse myIFB.org and ilfb.abenity.com to stay up-to-date on what resources are available to members when making

payments and finding amazing discounts.

In the average month, I run more than 30 reports. After completing those reports, I had the opportunity to run longer-term and more in-depth queries, ultimately saving me time. One of these more significant projects was to assign correct townships to members who have moved.

Streamlining methods included cleaning out files and noting ideas for future use. During a regular work schedule, there was never much time to reflect on what worked well and what needed to be updated. Making

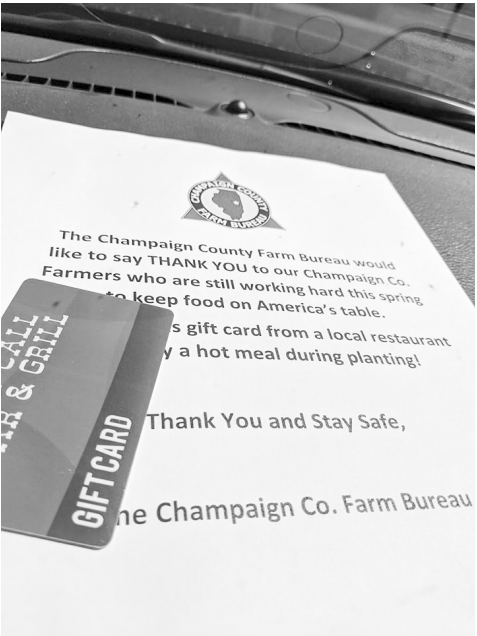
such notes, as well as writing down more ideas and cleaning up files, were bonuses.

When I was in the office, it was like a typical day... so much to do, yet so little time. I entered dues payments, printed and mailed letters, made phone calls, etc. I made sure I got done what was necessary for the week and brought home the papers needed for projects.

Thank you for letting me take you behind the scenes of what I do in membership! I value members like you, and appreciate what you contribute to agriculture! Be safe during planting!

CCFB in Action!

CCFB has been striving to support members of our community during COVID 19. We miss our members during this time of social distancing, but we are working hard to stay connected.



The CCFB is #FeedingFarmers who are #StillFarming during this crazy Spring! We’re buying gift cards from local restaurants like The Last Call in Penfield and CCFB staff will be dropping them off to farmers in the field to show our thanks. So if you see a CCFB envelope on your truck, make sure you open it!



CCFB began taking donations of PPE equipment for local healthcare workers from CCFB members and local agriculture businesses. All donated PPE equipment including clean, unused, N95 face masks have been dropped off at OSF and Carle. Thank you to everyone who donated.





Dear Friends of the Foundation,

On behalf of the CCFB Foundation Board of Directors and staff, I hope that you and your loved ones are well and staying safe as we confront COVID-19 in our community. In this unprecedented time we are all challenged to change our routines, to stay healthy, and to make the best of this unique situation.

I believe within every challenge, is great opportunity. At the CCFB Foundation that's exactly how we've approached our stay-at-home order. Our staff is still working hard to communicate the importance of agriculture to our community. To educate through our Ag in the Classroom programming, and by announcing over \$60,000 in scholarship support to 43 Champaign County students. While our location may have changed; our mission remains steadfast.

Ag in the Classroom Director Sarah Kaper is using this time to share online lessons with teachers, and parents. We are still taking agriculture to the classroom – no matter what that classroom might look like. Through electronic worksheets, hands-on resource pick-up, and even newly recorded video lessons, we hope to keep agriculture top-of-mind for Champaign County students.

While our educational programs continue, we've decided to hit "pause" on our Grounded in Agriculture campaign supporting Ag in the Classroom. We hope to re-launch this campaign later this summer so that we can meet our educational goals in the 2020-2021 school year. We cannot wait to see you, and to celebrate with you, at a re-scheduled Grounded in Ag event later this summer.

Through this challenge we are reminded of the great opportunity we have in Champaign County. Our Foundation is strong and so is our ag community. Throughout the past few weeks, we've been reminded of how important our community is. To us, Agriculture is Community and we've seen our community at work in so many positive ways during the coronavirus pandemic. We hope to highlight the many good deeds taking place throughout our area. No matter how big or small, we want to spotlight each and every act of kindness.

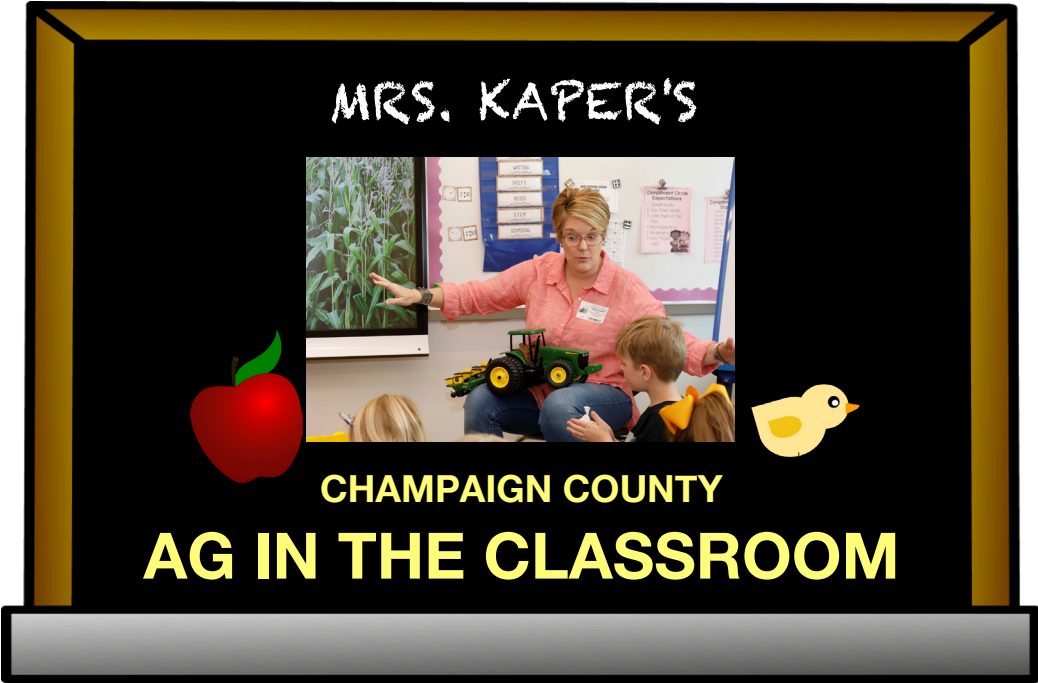
What have you seen in our community? I invite you to share the stories you've seen of neighbors stepping up to the plate, 4-H Clubs, FFA Chapters, Church families, or others in our Ag Community who are making a difference. Perhaps it's a recent effort to help combat the Coronavirus. Or maybe it's a gesture from a few weeks, months, or years past. We want to share these stories with central Illinois. We want to show that Agriculture is Community.

Reach out to us on social media to share your story. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as we shine a spotlight on those doing good our community.

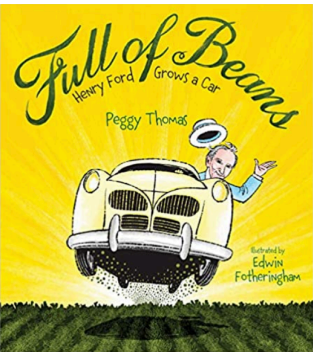
Challenges create opportunities. I hope that you and your loved ones are well, and that you're taking advantage of what lies ahead.

Kirk Builta

Kirk Builta, Executive Director
CCFB Foundation



Facebook followers new and old had an opportunity to win a new book!
Know a teacher? Encourage them to use our FREE resources!
Ask Them To Follow "Mrs. Kaper's Classroom" on Facebook!



Book Drawing Winners!

Ashley Mayor	Lori Bluhm	Wendy Deken Wirtz	Dana Martin
Nicole Irvin	Kim Howard	Brandy Caywood	Tiffany Clark
Marie Mueller Burge	Cassie McConkey	Bev Pridemore	Brian & Kelly Ruch
Tina Pinkerton Clark	Theresa Cox	Nicci Miller	Angela Dietz
Britta Krepes	Serra Nicolette	Debbie Whitehouse	Collette Oorondek
Elizabeth Fiscus-Baker	Cecelia Buck	Lindsay Brotherton	
Kelly Estes	Rhonda Young		

Free Resouces Distributed to Teachers for Earth Day!

Mrs. Kaper recently hosted a "Grab and Go Earth Day Resource Event". Teachers were able to drive to the CCFB office and pick up classroom kits with learning materials for their students. The kits included: Earth Day Bingo charts, Earth Day posters, Ag Mags, materials for making seed bombs with soil mairtix and IL wildflower seeds, instructions and templates for building a windmill simple machine, and paper plates for making their own "tree cookie". Approximately 45 kits were distributed with enough materials for 25 students in each kit!



Amazon Smile Campaign

MISSION:

"We educate by bringing knowledge and understanding through our Ag in the Classroom program, by providing scholarships to our future ag leaders, and by fundraising to sustain these initiatives."

STEPS TO SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM WITH YOUR EVERYDAY SHOPPING:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Click Get Started
3. Type in and select Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation
4. Shop and make a difference for over 1,500 Champaign County elementary students!

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT AMAZON SMILE:

- .5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases will go to Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation
- You must visit the smile.amazon.com site to support the charity



Jun 1-4 - Summer Ag Institute for Teachers
Let your favorite teacher know about SAI! Space is limited!

Aug 6th - Golf FORE Ag! - @ UI Golf Course
This is not your typical golf outing...and you don't want to miss it!

Nov 13th - Annual Harvest Gala
A fabulous night of fun, friends, food, and of course...PIES!





**KORY KRAUS,
GENERAL MANAGER**

FROM THE FIELD

by Dr. Howard Brown

Multi-Colored Corn (Figure 1). The plant is under a significant amount of stress when the seed no longer provides energy to the developing seedling and it transitions from the primary to the secondary root system. Cold nights cause cool soils which delays root development leaving the seedling with a not-so-ready root system. Plants will express differences in their soil environment, such as traffic patterns, changes in organic matter, or areas of herbicide overlap (crop injury). A classic expression of this transitional period is “purple corn”. Sugar accumulates in the leaves during the day, but a lack of phosphorus uptake (used to make plant energy) creates a back-up of sugar. High leaf concentration of sugar triggers the pigment anthocyanin to temporarily be the dominant leaf pigment (red/purple), with the lower leaves expressing the color change. Normal plant color should return when the soils warm and root uptake of nutrients catch-up to plant demand. A cooler-than-expected early April will likely amplify this transitional stress, especially with corn-following-corn fields where all the N is knifed-in or side-dressed.



Figure 1. Purpling of corn leaves due to slow primary root development. The intensity of leaf purpling can be related to the amount of red pigment produced by the plant (anthocyanin).

More than two stresses prior to corn nodal (permanent) root development. The seed has a limited amount of stored energy to establish the primary root system and to fully extend the first two leaves. Any loss of leaf area or vascular tissue connecting the seed to the seedling prior to nodal root development will impact development of permanent roots and above-ground growth. Historically, plants have normally recovered from one stress, such as frost, hail or soil-blasting. However, adding an additional loss of leaf area, injury to the mesocotyl prior to nodal root development (below-ground insect feeding) or injury to the primary root may cause the plant to stop growing while it attempts to establish the nodal root before seed energy is exhausted. Less affected plants will tend to be more advanced in developmental and taller. The small plants that end up under the leaf canopy of surrounding plants will likely add little to harvest yield.



Figure 2. Uneven corn growth caused by injury to plant's mesocotyl (vascular tissue connecting seed to growing point and seedling plant).

Dig-up smaller-than desired plants and determine the cause. Uneven emergence is commonly caused by injury to the seed (endosperm), mesocotyl or primary root system. Making time to dig-up and wash-off the roots for a close examination may help avoid making a misdiagnosis of the problem. Many services calls starting out with “poor quality seed” or “uneven germination” end up being wireworm, seed corn beetle, residual herbicide injury, Pythium, or other issues that robbed seed endosperm or disrupted the flow of energy from the seed.

Spring-applied anhydrous ammonia applied into wet areas of a field may result in ammonia burn regardless of when it was applied. Applicator knives tend to cut through wet soils, leaving smeared sidewalls to the knife trench. The free space left by the knife is filled with ammonia gas. If the planter places the seed immediately above the knife trench free ammonia may escape into the seed zone, exposing the seed or young seedling roots to burn from free ammonia. Above ground symptoms usually appear in



Figure 3. Use a spade to uncover the total environment around the young seedling. Place the spade at an angle to lift the seedling and soil environment together.



Figure 4. Smeared sidewall and root injury caused by planting on top of the point of anhydrous ammonia application (less-than-ideal conditions at time of anhydrous ammonia application).

low, wet areas as uneven emergence. The primary and/or seminal root tips of affected plants will exhibit a brown discoloration, which essentially stops root development, slowing early growth. Although plants may survive injury, the plant's contribution to harvest yield may be compromised. Spring-applied anhydrous ammonia should be offset from the planted row (guidance) or applied at an angle to the direction of planting to minimize the number of plants exposed to free ammonia from sidewall compaction.

Soybeans respond to soil residual N even though they are a legume (can fix N through a plant/bacteria symbiotic relationship). Nitrogen-fixing nodules will start providing the soybean plant N approximately two weeks following emergence. Until then, the plant relies on residual soil N until fixation is initiated. High 2019 yields and a cold Spring has left soils with a minimal amount of N for crop utilization. Expect to see light green colored soybean fields the first two weeks following emergence (before nodulation starts to fix N).

Cool wet soils favor Pythium. Pythium is an early-season pathogen that tends to attack most planted seeds, whether corn or soybean. It is considered a water mold and requires saturated soil conditions to infect the seed or young seedling (swims to the site of infection). The disease is favored by saturated soil conditions coupled with soil temperatures at or below 50° F. Infected plants may emerge and die or die prior to emergence. Infected plants will have a water-soaked rotting appearance.

N-TRACKER Plus: Residual N following soybeans. Sixty to 80 pounds of residual plant-available N (PAN) was detected in the upper two feet of the soil profile (7 sites) following soybeans, the same residual amount of N detected Spring of 2019 where no N was applied Fall, 2018. Based upon sampling over the past 4 years, a baseline of 60-80 lbs. residual N can be anticipated in the Spring where soybean was the previous crop and no primary N is applied.

N-TRACKER Plus: Fall-Applied N Update: N-TRACKER sites collected following anhydrous ammonia applications last fall and again in early April detected a 28-30 lb. loss. The assessment is simply Fall Plant-Available N (PAN) – Spring PAN. The limited number of sites cannot predict a loss area wide, however, it does provide a level of confidence that a loss has occurred at the sites sampled.

Currently, 30 N-TRACKER Plus sites have been sampled with the second sampling date coming up mid-May. So far, site have revealed the need for specific nutrients in the upper soil profile beyond nitrogen. The sampling date will be more revealing with whole plant samples collected along with soil samples at each site to determine the plant's nutrient demand relative to the soil's supplying power. I will share the overall outcome in future articles. To get specific information and to experience the value of N-TRACKER Plus on you farm you need to sign-up for a sampling site with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist.

Using plant analysis to determine nutrient status. Intensity of the plant's green color does not always indicate a shortage of plant-available nitrogen. Other plant-essential nutrients involved with chlorophyll (green color) production include sulfur, iron and manganese to name a few. The reason for the difference in color intensity and/or growth should be determined before any corrective action is taken. The value of plant analysis is greatly enhanced by testing tissue from plants that exhibit normal growth and color. It provides a relative comparison (yellow vs. green) to help determine the cause(s) of the abnormal color development.

For more information about plant tissue analysis and how to handle the samples visit the following website: https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/p1224_0.pdf

CORN

Seedling stage (less than 12"). All the above-ground portion 15 to 20 plants
Before tasseling: The entire leaf fully developed below the whorl 10 to 15 plants
Tasseling to Silking: The leaf opposite and below the ear shoot 10 to 15 plants

Note: Sampling after silking is not recommended.

SOYBEANS

Seedling stage (less than 12")
All above ground portion. 20 to 30 plants
Before or during initial flowering.
2-3 fully developed Leaves at the top of the plant. 20 to 30 plants

Note: Sampling after pods begin to set is not recommended.

Note: N-TRACKER Plus will explore the relationship between soil nutrient test levels and plant tissue analysis at a specific point over time. It can be revealing to watch nutrient dynamics in the soil and plant over time. No better tool to help make high management nutrient decisions.



Nathan Hubbard
COUNTRY Financial
Agency Manager



Rhonda Wagner
Administrative Assistant
Champaign Agency



Dan Punkay
328-0023

When was the last time you updated your life beneficiary designations?

Are your beneficiaries up to date?

by Kristin Smith



Bret Kroencke
359-9391



Travis Heath
352-4555



Kolby Jackson
586-5030



Keith Garrett
485-3010



Chris Greenwold
355-8675

Your phone, your wardrobe, your contact information. These three things have something in common. Can you guess what it is?

If you said, “you update all of them,” give yourself a pat on the back (sorry, we don’t actually have prizes for the correct answer). You update these things regularly, but how often do you update your beneficiaries?

What’s new with you?

If you haven’t reviewed your beneficiary designations recently, ask yourself these questions:

- Has your marital status changed?
- Have you had a child?
- Have you changed jobs recently?

If you answered “yes” to any of these, you probably should do a quick beneficiary designation review. Why is it important?

- **Grief is already hard enough** – The people you care about will already be dealing with a lot if something should happen to you. By keeping everything up to date, you can help make the whole process a little easier for them.
- **Secondary = just as important** – If something happens to your primary beneficiary, your secondary beneficiary is next. Make sure to keep your contingent beneficiaries up to date too.
- **What will?** – Certain things, like life insurance policies, bank, and retirement accounts take precedence over your will. If the identified beneficiary of those policies and accounts don’t match your will, then your assets could go to someone you don’t want them to.

Regular updates aren’t limited to just your phone, wardrobe or contact information. Keeping your selected beneficiaries up to date is a simple step that you can take toward protecting your family’s financial future.



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352-3466



Dan Duitsman
469-2033



Jordan McDaniel
217-352-9817



John May
352-3341



Terry Hill
469-9800



Austin Beaty
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Jim Nelson
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Aaron Wheeler
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359-9335



Dawn Babb
892-4479



Andrew Deedrich
359-3941



Steve Derry
352-2655

Utility Construction Kicking Into High Gear

Spring is a busy time for farmers and utility companies also kick construction into high gear. Staying aware of any projects coming your way and knowing your rights as a property owner can save you time and money. CCFB wants you to be prepared for possible projects or easements in your area. When construction comes your way several thoughts may enter your mind including how far does the road right of way extend, what will happen if drainage tile gets broken, or what if crops get damaged by these companies? If you are thinking it, so have other farmers and landowners who have been in similar circumstances. Illinois Farm Bureau, in conjunction with county farm bureaus, is working to provide you with information to protect your rights including information on several projects including wind and solar farms, broadband installation projects, and transmission lines.

Bill Bodine, IFB’s Director of Business and Regulatory Affairs, deals with issues throughout the year and can give CCFB members some direction when construction issues arise on their property. Bodine suggests, “If farmers and landowners learn that a broadband installation project will occur near their property, they need to first determine if they own the road right-of-way. This is most often the case along township roads. If they do own the right-of-way, then the broadband company must get an easement from them to install fiber optic cable or equipment.”

The spring planting season is getting ready to intensify and landowners may be tempted to put utility construction issues on the backburner until the crops get planted, but it is best to address the situation right away. IFB’s Bodine points to some situations across the state where landowners are overlooked saying, “We are aware of situations where broadband installation companies have used a permit or authorization from a road commissioner as justification for installing without an easement from the landowner. If the landowner owns the right-of-way, the broadband company must still get an easement from the owner to install on the property even if they have a permit or authorization from a road authority.”

The beginning of any project in your area starts with finding out as much as you can about what is about to take place. CCFB staff and volunteers work closely with Illinois Farm Bureau staff to provide a strong support system for members with questions. We started with Bill Bodine and he stresses “It is very important for landowners to closely monitor any proposed projects. Fiber optic cable can be knifed into the ground quickly and with little land disturbance. This can damage underground drain tile, but that damage may not appear for months when wet weather occurs. Addressing these kinds of issues in an easement before installation can make it easier for the landowner to receive compensation for damages and easier to get repairs made.”

If you have questions or concerns about utility construction on your property contact the Champaign County Farm Bureau Manager, Brad Uken, at 217-352-5235.

BROADBAND INSTALLATION PROJECTS

Broadband service is a necessity for today's modern farmer. However, if broadband equipment and fiber optic lines are being installed in the area, landowners need to understand their rights.

Contractors installing broadband equipment or fiber optic lines in road rights-of-way must have a permit or approval from the road authority responsible for the road before installation. **If the road authority does not own the right-of-way, the contractor must also get an easement from the landowner.**

Landowners should determine if they own the road right-of-way. If so, the landowner should demand the contractor or broadband company seek an easement for use of the right-of-way. An easement should be sought whether the installation will occur below or above ground.

Installation of broadband equipment and fiber optic lines below ground can damage property, damage existing drain tile, and impact the ability to make drainage improvements in the future. Installing the equipment on existing power poles may limit the ability to operate farm equipment in a field.

An easement for installation of broadband equipment or fiber optic lines should address items like repair of compacted soil, repair of damaged drain tile, height of above ground lines, and other property damages. The easement may also include compensation for use of the right-of-way.

These easement items are only the beginning. **Landowners should carefully consider all the property rights impacted by the installation of broadband equipment or fiber optic lines.**

If you have any questions or need assistance regarding a broadband installation project in your area, your County Farm Bureau and the Illinois Farm Bureau area here to help.

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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 Conrady
Communications Director -- Lesley Gooding
Administrative Assistant -- Brenda Wood
Membership & Outreach Coordinator -- Maggi Maxstadt
Ag In The Classroom Director -- Sarah Kaper
Foundation Director -- Kirk Builta

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2020 CCFB Trips Filling Up FAST Reserve Your Spot Today!

July 1, 2020 (Wednesday)

Crazy for You, The Little Theatre–Sullivan, IL

A zany rich-boy-hometown-girl romantic comedy, Crazy for You tells the story of young New York banker Bobby Child, who is sent to Deadrock, Nevada, to foreclose on a rundown theatre. In Deadrock, Bobby falls for spunky Polly Baker, the theater owner’s daughter. But Polly takes an instant dislike to the city slicker, so Bobby vows through cunning, razzmatazz and a hilarious case of mistaken identity to win Polly’s heart and save the theatre.

Price per person: \$80.00

Deadline to register, be paid in full or cancel: May29, 2020

September 16, 2020 (Wednesday)

The Ark, Myers Dinner Theatre–Hillsboro, IN

This exciting new musical is sure to delight and inspire audiences of all ages as they enter the theatre transformed into an ark only to discover they are the animals and this is not only Noah’s adventure, it’s theirs. A fresh take on a familiar tale, it’s the story of how one family learns to brave life’s rough waters by sticking together. The music for the show will have you dancing in the “isles”. The Ark proves that, just like the waters, the depth of human emotion knows no bounds.

Price per person: \$85.00(gratuity included)

Deadline to register, be paid in full or cancel: August 21, 2020

October 14, 2020 (Wednesday)

Is there Life After Fifty, The Barn III-Goodfield, IL

This new comedy flirts with a topical theme: the aging of the Baby Boomer generation. Three couples who all raised their kids on the same street have found a

way to keep in touch after they move to new cities. Each year, on Labor Day weekend, the friends vacation together. This year, the ladies have planned a little surprise: a healthy, all –natural weekend at a trendy health resort, complete with organic food and exercise. The men, who really come for the beer and snacks, are not pleased when they find out. Tensions escalate into an all-out battle of the sexes, and the cabin is divided, literally, into the men against the women. They battle over health food, exercise, pizza, The Godfather, rock and roll, hot tubs, hot flashes, tummy tucks and their refusal to become middle-aged!

Price per person: \$92.00

Deadline to register, be paid in full or cancel: September 14, 2020

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.***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.

As of printing we are still taking reservations for 2020 Trips & Tours.

Champaign County Farm Bureau Members Make Impact on Community

Champaign County Farm Bureau Members are dedicated volunteers who put in a lot of time and effort to spread a message about the importance of agriculture. Hours and hours of manpower are dedicated by these volunteers each year to teach others.

Steven and Judi Stierwalt are two volunteers you want to know. In January, they were awarded the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation’s Ag Literacy Award, presented to volunteers who demonstrate visionary leadership, creativity, and advocacy that furthers the education of students, and consumers, in the area of food and agriculture. The Stierwalts are longtime volunteers and members of the Ag in the Classroom steering committee. They were instrumental in the creation of the Earth Partners program (now called Ag in the Classroom); they are past Foundation board members and tireless advocates for Ag Education and Ag Literacy.

Judi’s passion for agriculture has deep roots in Champaign County stressing, “My commitment to agriculture education began with Earth Partners & continues today with Ag in the Classroom. It’s easy to be a part of Ag in the Classroom when one sees the importance of reaching children as they grow up and become parents themselves to understand agriculture & how it plays a vital role in their daily life.”

Being long time volunteers and being instrumental in the development of the agriculture education program in Champaign has allowed the Stierwalts to see many changes over the years. Judi says, “Instead of teaching the teachers, we are equipping and supporting the teachers with resources while teaching students lessons that align with curriculum and state standards. CCFB Foundation Educator and Ag in the Classroom Director Sarah Kaper’s commitment, along with her enthusiasm, made our Ag in the Classroom a topnotch program. I also appreciate the CCFB Foundation’s continued support for agriculture education along with agriculture scholarships.”

Over the years, volunteers have had to come up with new ways to get agriculture lessons in the classrooms and to teachers throughout the county. The Stierwalts are a part of a dedicated team of volunteers that continue to develop new ideas and creative ways to get students and teachers interested in agriculture. Judi says, “Teachers have always been busy, but now the emphasis is to teach to the standardized tests, which has been a challenge to get agriculture lessons into the classroom. Our Learning Barn continues to be a valuable asset for the younger students. I continue to be involved in



The inaugural Steven & Judi Stierwalt Award was presented on January 27, 2020 to Steve and Judi Stierwalt. Presenting the Award are Kirk Bulta, CCFB Foundation Executive Director, Sarah Kaper, Educator and Director of Ag in the Classroom, and Cory Mitchell, President of the CCFB Foundation's Board of Directors.

agriculture education by being on the Ag in the Classroom committee, delivering and stocking products in the Learning Barn, helping teach classroom agriculture lessons, and the Unity West Ag Book Barn which contains agriculture books purchased by dollars donated by local area farmers.”

Because we have volunteers who are willing, board members who are involved, steering committee members who care, and donors who support this program, getting the message into schools is happening—in a big way. Teachers and students are connecting with agriculture. In honor of the work that Steven and Judi have poured into our county the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation has renamed the annual award ***The Steven & Judi Stierwalt Ag Literacy Award.***

Lin Warfel Awarded Volunteer of the Year

Lin Warfel was recently awarded Champaign County Farm Bureau’s Ken Roellig Volunteer of the Year Award. He has been a Champaign County Farm Bureau Volunteer for decades holding several volunteer positions in the Farm Bureau organization from leading the Champaign County Farm Bureau as President to volunteering with the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation to being involved with governmental affairs and state and local legislators. His involvement in the community is unrivaled. He has dedicated countless hours to Parkland College, the State & National Trustees Association, Rotary, local education efforts, and also loves spending time with his family and friends.

Being involved in the community and taking an active role in issues that interest him has made a difference. Lin is deeply connected to Champaign County and its agriculture sector stressing “The farming culture has an element of ‘volunteer’ written into it indelibly! As a little guy, folks I admired at church and adult friends of my parents and grandparents volunteered in many ways, like leadership positions and work as board members and committee members. Some, like John Matthews (former CCFB President) and John Little (Farmer’s Union) were very influential.”



Lin Warfel receives the Ken Roellig Volunteer of the Year Award from CCFB President Mike Briggs.



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ment all get wrapped up in Farm Bureau policies. Those policies come from the county Farm Bureaus!

Over my career through involvement with our county Farm Bureau, we in Champaign County have played a part in education and advocacy. Recently our county passed a 1% sales tax limited to expenses for school buildings, a direct relief on property taxes, and a way for school boards to plan budgets for maintenance and improvements. New roofs, windows, and more efficient heating and air conditioning along with additions have resulted. Alternative evaluation of farmland for property taxes has a huge impact on farm budgets. Current law establishes value via a formula based on capitalized rent instead of 1/3 of fair market value. Figure those savings out! Inheritance taxes at both the state and

national level have been moderated through Farm Bureau efforts.

Just as on the farm, most of the work gets done out of the public eye! The general public sees a farmer out in a field, but dealing with finances and legal issues, keeping up on seeds, chemicals, fertilizers get done out of sight. In the Farm Bureau, it’s meetings and publications! I reflected recently that when first out of school, I spent 80% of my time outside and 20% in my office. In recent years, office functions including work with Farm Bureau and education have reversed that! It’s 80% going to meetings and doing office work. Planning, accounting, reading are key parts to business success.”

Lin continues to see positive changes, “One of the major, really neat changes during my career has been the upward movement of women in agriculture. Science, accounting, sales, marketing, management... women are much more prominent today than 50 years ago, and it benefits us all!” Seeing all this change also leads Lin to say, “This is the most exciting time of my career! What we are doing with computerization, what we are learning and doing with genetics, and the explosion of knowledge now dealing with microbes is neat! Study! Act! Learn and teach!”

The desire to make a difference in the community took hold at a young age and has allowed Lin to stay steadfast in his beliefs, finding a great teammate too. Lin closes with some motivation for all of us, “Volunteer and servant fit together well! Our common faith admonishes us to ‘serve others’. Says ‘volunteer’ doesn’t it! What is really neat is how much more can be accomplished when we work together. A couple working together sure is productive! My wife Kay and I are teammates! Works well for faith, family, friends, and farm!”

WOMEN’S COMMITTEE RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Lois Wood

Lois Wood, CCFB Volunteer, submitted the recipe this month! Lois says she will often get a request to make White Wine Cake for Prime Timer’s meetings! It is a favorite dessert of the group and always gets eaten!

White Wine Cake

CAKE

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup white sugar
- 1 box vanilla instant pudding

- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 4 eggs
- ¾ cup water
- ¾ cup oil
- ½ cup white wine
- Bake cake at 350 degrees until done!

GLAZE

- Melt 1 stick butter
- 1 cup white sugar
- ¼ cup white wine
- Poke holes in cake and pour in holes.