





# January Report



## President, Mike Briggs

Welcome to 2021! I know we are all looking forward to a different year. Hopefully we are able to get back to a more “normal” environment as we move forward. Looking back on 2020 the agriculture industry had numerous ups and downs but finished with some good weather for the fall and an increase in commodity prices.

The farm bureau is looking forward to 2021 and the opportunity to continue moving forward with our programming. We have learned a lot during the last year and I feel we are reaching many more people with some of the changes we have made. I appreciate how well our members have worked with us.

I hope everyone was able to enjoy the holidays I wish you all a prosperous new year.

Sincerely,  
Mike Briggs

## Join the Prime Timers!

*Prime Timers canceled.*

## Prime Timers Deliver Cookies

Prime Timers recently donated cookies to Cunningham Children’s Home. No homemade items were being accepted this year so Prime Timers purchased chocolate chip cookies, sugar cookies, M & M cookies, and Oreo cookies to donate.

*Meetings will tentatively resume in 2021!*

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

## WOMEN’S COMMITTEE RECIPE OF THE MONTH

*Submitted By Vicki Goodmann*

### Buttermilk Cinnamon Bars

*This was a favorite of our girls growing up, and I hope everyone enjoys giving it a try!*

#### Ingredients

1 ¼ c. sugar	1 well beaten egg
¾ c. brown sugar	½ tsp. salt
2 c. flour	1 tsp. cinnamon
½ c. soft oleo	1 tsp. baking powder
½ c. coconut	1 tsp. vanilla
½ c. chopped nuts	1 c. buttermilk or sour milk

Combine the sugars, flour, and oleo as you would for pastry. Mix 2 cups of this with the coconut and nuts. Press lightly in the bottom of a greased 13 X 9 X 2 inch pan. Set aside. Combine the remaining oleo mixture with the remaining ingredients. Spread over the first layer. Bake at 350 degrees for about 38 minutes. Frost with a thin powdered sugar icing while still warm.

## CCFB Calendar of Events January 2021

January 7	Zoom with Kevin Semlow & Adam Nielsen – IFB	8:30 a.m.
	State and National Priorities for IFB	
January 11	Women’s Committee ZOOM	9:30 a.m.
January 19	Governmental Affairs	7:30 a.m.
January 21	Full Board	6:30 p.m.

### Virtual Meetings are posted at [www.ccfarmbureau.com](http://www.ccfarmbureau.com)

- Ethanol Update - Illinois Corn Growers Association.
- Nitrogen Update with Howard Brown and Emerson Nafziger.
- Listen in as Country Financial Representative Andrew Deedrich discusses Farm Insurance Policies.
- An update on the state of the Parkland College Ag Program with Jenni Fridgen.
- Listen in as we are joined by American Farm Bureau Federation Chief Economist John Newton discussing the state of agriculture trade.
- Follow along with Dean Kidwell for an update with the College of ACES.
- Country Financial Representative Bret Kroencke gives an update on Open Enrollment for Health Insurance.
- Catch up on the latest Governmental Affairs issues.
- Did you miss our Farmland Use update from American Farmland Trust? You can view it here. There is great information on the status of farmland conservation and preservation in the US and more specifically in Illinois and what policy actions AFT is recommending to preserve farmland for future generations.
- CCFB hosted a conversation with Champaign County Sheriff Heuerman and County Executive Kloeppel. Topics ranged from farm safety and the county budget, to the county response to COVID-19.
- David Oppedahl, Sr. Economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, discussed the state of the farm economy in the Midwest. Follow the link to listen in on a deep dive into factors impacting farmland value, cash rent trends, and farm profitability.
- Listen in on the Farm Safety Meeting featuring Amy Rademaker from Carle’s Center for Rural Health & Farm Safety and Dave Newcomb from IFSI. Topics range from mental health to the use of fire extinguishers!

# SAVE *the* DATE!

## Virtual RULES FOR THE ROAD

MARCH 2 AT 9:30 AM

MARCH 4 AT 6:30 PM

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON





# Larry Dallas Elected To District 12 Director

Larry Dallas of Tuscola was elected to serve District 12 on the Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) Board of Directors at the organization's 2020 virtual business meeting on Saturday, Dec. 5.

Dallas will serve a two-year term to represent IFB members in Champaign, Douglas, Edgar and Vermilion counties. As Larry takes his seat on the board he says he is ready to address some big issues...

*"The financial woes of the state of Illinois will be a big concern. Springfield can't stop spending and will be looking for revenue everywhere."*

*The corona virus shutdowns showed us vulnerabilities in food production and distribution. Farm Bureau should be involved in figuring out a system of food production that doesn't see the grocery store limiting customers on their milk purchases when dairy farmers are dumping milk."*

*Environmental issues will remain important. We have to tell our story of efficient and environmentally sound agriculture."*

Larry is going to hit the ground running, tackling several agriculture issues, attending meetings, and learning about agriculture issues affecting other parts of the state...

*"I am going to represent Illinois Farm Bureau at the AFBF annual meeting in January on the Champaign County resolution regarding field identity flagging, with only about a month on the Board. I am also looking forward to starting a dialogue and fellowship between the District 12 county leaders, to get to know and to learn from each other."*

*We are in a row crop heavy area. I am excited to learn more about the livestock segment of Illinois agriculture. I am also looking forward to finding out more about the Illinois counties that rely on the river system for moving their crops and the problems with farming near the rivers in the state."*

Dallas farms corn, soybeans and hay with his brother and nephew in Douglas and Champaign counties. The two brothers, who are first-generation

farmers, founded Dallas Brothers Farm in 1984.

Dallas currently serves on the Douglas County Farm Bureau board, serving as president since 2011. He was chairman of the Champaign County Farm Bureau Young Farmers from 1984 to 1996.

He is a current member of several membership associations, including Illinois Soybean Association, Illinois Corn Growers Association, American Soybean Association and National Corn Growers Association.

Over the years, Dallas has held leadership positions with the East Central Farm Bureau Farm Management, Heartland Cooperative Grain Board and the Nabor House Agricultural Cooperative fraternity at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), where he has served as business agent for the past 38 years. He is the current secretary treasurer for the Upper Kaskaskia Watershed group.

Dallas graduated from Tuscola Community High School, later receiving a Bachelor of Science in agricultural economics from UIUC. He is a lifelong member of St. Paul's Lutheran church in Sadorus.

CCFB would also like to extend a big thank you to Steve Fourez from Vermilion County for his service as District 12 Director. Fourez tackled several major agriculture issues as the Illinois Farm Bureau – District 12 Director since 2017.



Larry Dallas

## Maggi's Membership Corner

By Maggi Maxstadt, CCFB Membership & Outreach Coordinator



Happy New Year, Farm Bureau members! The CCFB staff is looking forward to what the new year brings.

For 2021 we are trying our best to provide members like you with relevant and timely programming, even though events may look different than in previous years.

One big event each January is the Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Instead of gathering in-person, the Board of Directors decided to transition the meeting to a

proxy format last year.

This format means that a voting member (like you) allows another voting member (like our Board's Directors) to vote on their behalf. Thank you to those members who mailed in a paper form or filled one out electronically via the Friday Leader! More information on the Annual Meeting will come in the next CCFB News!

A new meeting happening during January and February is a free agribusiness webinar provided by Illinois Farm Bureau and COUNTRY Financial. You can sign up for one of four live webinars, which will last about 90 minutes each. Visit [ccfarmbureau.com](http://ccfarmbureau.com) to see the flier.

If you want to see more information on upcoming events, visit our website [ccfarmbureau.com](http://ccfarmbureau.com) or find us on Facebook and Twitter! If you have an idea for a program, contact the CCFB office at 217-352-5235 or [ccfb@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:ccfb@ccfarmbureau.com).

The Champaign County Farm Bureau was able to accomplish so much thanks to our members. Best wishes to you and your family in 2021!

### IFB Young Leaders LISTENING SESSION 2021

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.**

The IFB Mission Statement is  
"To improve the economic well-being of agriculture and enrich the quality of farm family life."

Governmental Affairs staff is working on issues important to members at the local, state, and federal levels, and we need to hear from you as young farmers and agriculturalists.

Join us to share your thoughts on:

- Post-Election Opportunities and Concerns
- The Farm Economy and Pathways to Economic Success for Young Farmers and their Families
- IFB Policy and Engaging in Policy Development on Issues Important to You

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021**  
Virtual Session

Contact your County Farm Bureau to register

## Your Illinois Ag News Now.

- New modern functionality and look
- Audio/video
- 24/7 news

**FarmWeek Now.com**



Feeding our Future.  
Fueling our Industry.

CCFBFOUNDATION.COM

f /CCFBFOUNDATION

t /CCFB\_FOUNDATION



## MRS. KAPER'S CLASSROOM



## CHAMPAIGN COUNTY AG IN THE CLASSROOM

## 2021 Scholarship Applications Available

Visit [www.ccfbfoundation.com/scholarship](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com/scholarship) for more information & to apply!

Applications due January 31, 2021



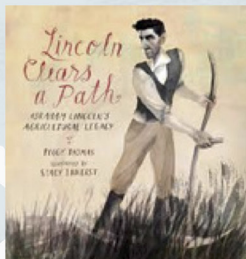
## JANUARY AG IN THE CLASSROOM

### TEACHING VIDEOS

There are three new winter teaching videos posted to the Champaign County Ag in the Classroom YouTube channel: Conifers, Candy Canes, and Cranberries. All focus on unique farming practices all over our country providing us with seasonal crops.

### JANUARY-FEBRUARY LESSONS

- National Milk Day is in January. Our dairy lesson will be focused on the "magic of milk".
- Sensational Soil gives students a look at different types of soil and how our IL soil is some of the best!
- Abraham Lincoln has strong ties to agriculture. In February we celebrate his birthday and his ag legacy.



## WINTER AG BAG SUCCESS



Winter Ag Bags were distributed to registered teachers from around the county. In all, 127 teachers from 27 county schools picked up materials for over 2500 students. Thanks to Waibel Farmland Services for donating branded tote bags!



## ILLINOIS AG IN THE CLASSROOM AND YOUTH AND EDUCATION TEAM FROM THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME IN CANTON, OHIO

## Agriculture. History. Football.

12:30-1:30 CT

JANUARY 20TH

Join Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom and the Youth and Education Team from the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio to learn about the great history of the game! You will not only learn the importance of the agricultural industry to the Game itself, but the Hall of Fame will take it one step further and show you a historical perspective on each of those items! Sign up here for webinar links to this field trip: <http://iaitc.co/fieldtrips>. For questions about the Hall of Fame's Youth and Educational Programming, please contact [Education@ProFootballHOF.com](mailto:Education@ProFootballHOF.com)



### ATTENTION TEACHERS AND FAMILIES WITH AT-HOME LEARNERS:

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom offers engaging lesson plans, virtual farm field trips and author interviews, book recommendations, professional development opportunities, and so much more.

Illinois  
AGRICULTURE  
in the Classroom

Learn more at the IAITC blog, [www.beyondthebarndoor.wordpress.com](http://www.beyondthebarndoor.wordpress.com), or follow us on social media.

Be "in the know"!  
Follow us!



Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation



Mrs. Kaper's Classroom



Champaign County  
Ag in the Classroom





## FROM THE FIELD



**KORY KRAUS,**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

by Dr. Howard Brown

### ON-FARM DISCOVERY – 2020

The rules governing input use have changed over the past two decades. No longer is 190 bushels of corn/acre or 60 bushels of soybean/acre an expectation. No longer is optimum yield linked with just N-P-K or soil pH. Consideration of other growth-limiting factors may be needed to reach and sustain higher harvest yield expectations. Will specific micronutrients become an annual part of nutrient applications? When will they need to be applied? What form works best? What is the Return-On-Investment (ROI)? Should a farmer wait for insects or disease to reach an economic threshold before making a fungicide or insecticide application or should there be a preventative approach to pest management? What are the economics of preventative applications? These and more questions can be addressed on your farm in your field evaluating your yield data. It's all about On-Farm Discovery and addressing the current questions that have no definitive answers. Give On-Farm Discovery a try. Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist about a trial that addresses your curiosity.

Illini FS On-Farm Discovery makes addressing farmer questions in farmer fields, using farmer data possible. Combining the Illini FS On-Farm Discovery trials and several other geographic areas with the GROWMARK Mi-Field Report expands the learning process by observing crop response across several growing environments. The GROWMARK Mi-Field Research Summary combines similar trials from across a three-state geography comparing crop response across growing environments and different farming practices. Whether the five-county area served by Illini FS or the three-state geography covered by GROWMARK, Inc., On-Farm Discovery and Mi-Field Applied Research helps address farmer questions, in farmer fields, utilizing farmer data and technologies.



Figure 2. Cover of the 2019 Mi-Field Report published by GROWMARK. The 2020 Edition will be released sometime in early January, 2021.

24 pounds of sulfur along with 21 pounds of nitrogen (21-0-0-24). Since the treatment included both nitrogen and sulfur, the two nutrients must be added at the same proportion to get the same (or similar) outcome. Future Illini FS On-Farm Discovery Trials will test soybean response to other sulfur sources that do not include supplemental N. In the meantime, if you would like to validate the trials represented in Figure 3, you must use ammonium sulfate as the sulfur source of-choice.

The combination of soil tests and plant tissue analysis brought to life a new way to characterize plant and soil health through Nu-TRACKER Plus. Nu-TRACKER Plus characterizes the soil's nutrient status and plant response at a specific point. Keeping both soil and tissue test collection in a finite area helps minimize random errors that quickly dilute information gained from a composite testing approach. Although limited in geography, the lessons learned make it possible to go beyond the sampling point to field-level considerations. With over 2000 sites tested for plant-available N over the past six years, a level of confidence has been established with the data gathered and reported with Nu-TRACKER Plus. Are there sites that do not follow expectations? Yes. However, most of the mystery outcomes can be explained once investigated. Some sites with high plant-available N pre-tassel



Figure 1. Cover of the 2020 Mi-Field Report published by Illini FS.

Illini FS has been working with corn response to sulfur the past two years. Trial work has suggested the possibility of a response in soybeans as well. The sulfur source used in 2020 trials delivered

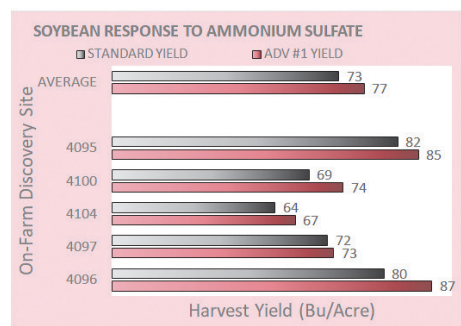


Figure 3. Soybean response to an application of AdvanSixSulf-N (ammonium sulfate) early post-emerge. Visit your local Illini FS Crop Specialist for more information about the rate applied and specific application timing.

were a mystery until it was uncovered that hired samplers were removing the crop from the test site to make it easier to sample pre-tassel. No plants, no uptake, the reason high plant-available N was detected. Mystery solved.

Soil testing. “What got us to where we are at may not get us to where we need to go.” This is a profound statement that describes where we are at with production agriculture. The Illinois Agronomy Handbook was used at the foundational document for several decades, providing agriculture with an agronomically sound approach to crop production. It was based upon agriculture of the 1970-80s. However, nearly every aspect of what defined production agriculture has now changed. Expected yields are in the mid 200-bushel range with yields at or slightly below 200 bushel/acre a common disappointment. Soybean yields of 70 bushel/acre are now considered a lower acceptable yield. Corn roots now explore deeper into the upper soil profile with the introduction of transgenic resistance to corn rootworm feeding. Accompanying transgenic resistance was an improvement with nitrogen utilization and drought tolerance, both the result of a more robust, deeper, and protected root system. Our nutrient recommendation system is suspect of being inadequate, since it was initially based upon an acre furrow slice that was defined by the moldboard plow. Tillage continues to evolve generating many more questions than we have answers for. Throw in soil health, water quality, and cover crops and we have a new era of production agriculture. It is the aspiration of Illini FS to meet the challenge of facing new unanswered agronomic questions with innovative products, services and solutions. Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist about our focus on the future of production agriculture, whether Nu-TRACKER Plus, nutrient recommendations based upon harvest removal or robotic soil sampling and how we plan to fill the void.

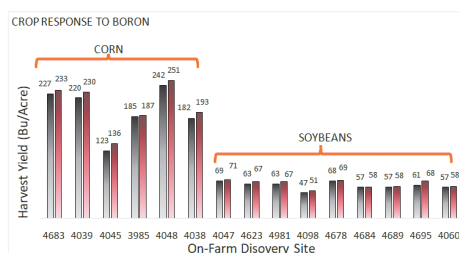


Figure 5. Crop response to boron.

in the upper profile. The rate study will help us better define the rate to apply. Boron has the least difference between deficiency and toxicity. More will not be better with this nutrient. Interested in learning more about what we have discovered? Contact your local Illini FS Crop Specialist for more information and to learn how we are developing boron management as a system rather than just an application.

## A Letter from Kory Kraus

This past year has proven to be a positive year for Illini FS with strength in our Energy and Agronomy Divisions and a final net income of \$2.8 million (before taxes). As a result, we will be paying a total of \$513,000 patronage to our shareholders, something your cooperative is designed to do, and we are proud to do. We will be paying only on the energy products listed below. Patronage checks should be in the country very soon.

• Dyed tankwagon gallons only at \$0.062/gallon

• Clear tank wagon gallons only at \$0.062/gallon

I am very proud of the Illini FS employees and management staff. Reorganization of the leadership team and the addition of new sales and support staff has prepared us for continued profitability and growth. Our recently adopted winning aspiration sums it up the best “To be your trusted business partner delivering winning results through innovative products, services and solutions.”

We have tremendous work ahead of us to rebuild confidence in our shareholders once again. I am committed to the growth and continued success of Illini FS in 2021 and beyond. Let us be “your trusted business partner”.

Thank you for your business!

Kory Kraus

General Manager



To be your trusted business partner  
delivering winning results through  
innovative products, services and  
solutions.





**Nathan Hubbard**  
COUNTRY Financial  
Agency Manager



**Dan Punkay**  
328-0023



**Travis Heath**  
352-4555



**Keith Garrett**  
485-3010



**Jessie DeHaan**  
352-3466



**Jordan McDaniel**  
217-352-9817



**Terry Hill**  
469-9800



**Jim Nelson**  
892-4479



**Rhonda Wagner**  
Administrative Assistant  
Champaign Agency



**Bret Kroencke**  
359-9391



**Kolby Jackson**  
586-5030



**Chris Greenwold**  
355-8675



**Dan Duitsman**  
469-2033



**John May**  
352-3341



**Austin Beaty**  
352-0012



**Steve Derry**  
352-2655

## Letter From Nathan Hubbard, Champaign – Vermilion Agency Manager



The Champaign-Vermilion Agency had another successful year despite difficult circumstances in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has created some challenges for us but I am happy to say we have adapted and are thriving. We were forced to adjust how we do business and communicate with our clients and we had to figure it out quickly. While our hope is that we can return to some sense of normalcy in 2021, we are prepared to use technology and innovative ideas to move our business forward and make 2021 the best year our agency's history.

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. The agency achieved nearly all our corporate objectives in 2020 and has a chance to be named an All American agency once again which is the top honor COUNTRY Financial offers.

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.

We wish a safe and healthy 2021 for you and your family.

*Sincerely,*  
*Nathan Hubbard, Agency Manager*  
*Champaign-Vermilion Agency*



**Aaron Wheeler**  
586-6170



**Nate Lovekamp**  
352-0012



**Scott Jackson**  
359-9335



**Dawn Babb**  
892-4479



**Andrew Deedrich**  
359-3941



**2021** HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Apply Now*  
Application Period  
**JANUARY 1-  
FEBRUARY 15**

IAA Foundation  
Scholarship  
Program

  
IAAFoundation.org



# Blast from The Past



*Farm Bureau promoted improving soil with rock phosphate.*



*Field demonstrations, Model T Style, were an early part of the Farm Bureau and Extension program to improve farming practices.*



*Farm Bureau picnic, club calf lineup, 1931.*



*Harry Reifsteck, president, displays cup received by Champaign County for having the largest membership of any county in the United States, 1936.*



*The Homer Unit tug of war team at the 1938 picnic.*

**Photos courtesy of  
Champaign  
County Farm Bu-  
reau 100 Years of  
Leadership and  
Progress  
by  
Harold D. Guither**



*E. E. Golden and Paul Curtis check yields for the "75 - Bushel Club"*



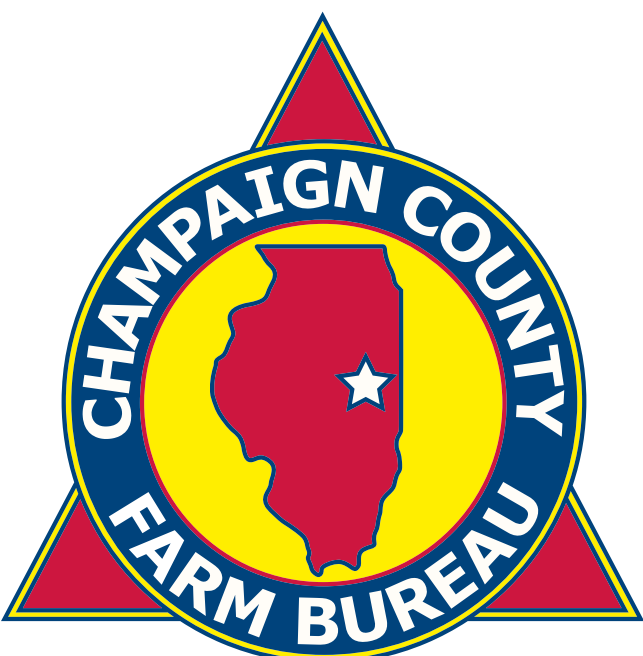
*Farm Bureau Float, July 4, 1984*



*Champaign County's State Champion Bowling Team - 1960*



*Farm Bureau Young People's Executive Council 1961-62: (seated) Roy Windler, Lois Wood; (standing) Deanne Lourash, Dan Reifsteck, Marilyn Rayburn.*



*Promoting pork as a nutritious food at the county fair.*