

# Welcome to the Board

Champaign County Farm Bureau recently welcomed nine new members to its Board of Directors. Over the next couple of months we will feature the new directors in the monthly newsletter. The Board of Directors, elected by our voting members, provides leadership and direction to the CCFB organization throughout the year. Members of the board meet monthly, participate in committee leadership, are active with Illinois Farm Bureau workshops and activities, and also represent CCFB at Illinois Farm Bureau’s Annual Meeting.

**Chandler Bruns** is a new face to the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors representing Urbana Township. Chandler completed her bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Leadership Education through the Parkland Pathways to the University of Illinois. She also completed her master’s degree in Agricultural Production at the University of Illinois.



Chandler Bruns

Chandler is active on the family grain farm just outside of Thomasboro, IL. In addition to working on the farm, she is a social media project manager at Rooster Strategic Solutions, an agricultural marketing agency.

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and farm bureau members are provided with opportunities to attend several meetings and workshops focusing on current agriculture topics. Serving on the board will allow Chandler to focus on her greatest areas of concern related to agriculture which include the new presidential administration including tax reform, sustainable agriculture, and WOTUS; infrastructure and rural broadband access; crop protection including the Dicamba ruling and Bayer settlements.

Taking on new challenges and embracing new opportunities is always something board members do. Chandler says, “I am interested in being more involved in Agriculture in the Classroom.” Champaign County’s Agriculture in the Classroom program reaches out to students to teach them about the importance of agriculture. This year’s program is still going strong through virtual presentations.

In Chandler’s spare time, you can find her enjoying time with family and traveling.

**Meg Hansens** is a new face to the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors representing Condit Township. Meg and her husband, Doug, grow corn and soybeans in Champaign and McLean counties. They are proud parents to three children in the Fisher community. According to Meg, “16 years ago when I said “I do” to Doug Hansens I quickly began to understand what he meant when he said farming was of a way of life vs. a job or occupation.”

Meg’s greatest areas of concern are environmental regulations, land



Meg Hansens

use, and the disconnect between the agriculture community and the general public. Being on the board provides an abundance of opportunities to learn more and become involved in different ag committees or explore different interests. Meg says she is interested in “social media and those who advocate on it are a powerful tool for agriculture education and finding common ground with those seeking to learn more.”

“Our family enjoys camping and hiking state and National Parks together (in between planting and harvest seasons of course). Physical, mental and especially spiritual wellness is very important to me,” says Meg. “Before coming home to raise a family, I taught Health Education at the high school level and to this day I still feel more comfortable teaching and promoting a healthy lifestyle than I do behind the wheel of the grain cart! But, after 6 harvests, I still haven’t been fired and look forward to the opportunity to help in the fields each year. After a short time working at the CCFB about ten years ago, I’m looking forward to plugging in more with the efforts of the organization.”

Put your hands together for Champaign County Farm Bureau Director **Tanna Suits**. Tanna represents Ludlow Township. She attended Black Hawk College – East Campus on a horse judging scholarship where she was the 2005 AQHA World Show High Point Individual and President of the Agri-Business Club. After completing a double minor at Black Hawk College, she did an Ag transfer and graduated from Illinois State University. She holds a Bachelor’s of Science with a Major in Agriculture Science and a Minor in Agriculture Industry Management.



Tanna Suits

Tanna was also a recipient of the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation scholarship.

You could say that Agriculture is rooted deep in her blood. Tanna Suits grew up on a grain and livestock farm just south of Ogden, IL and was very active in 4-H and FFA. Tanna and her family raised and showed Registered Angus cattle at the local, state and national levels. She also enjoyed showing her horses when time allowed. In 2004, she was the Illinois Angus Queen, served on the Illinois Junior Angus Board, had Angus Division champions, won the Illinois State Fair Master Showmanship Beef Division and was 5th overall in the Master Showmanship contest. Tanna is a past 4-H Leader, serves as a Board Member for the Champaign County Farm Bureau, was a Charter member of the Illinois Ranch Horse Association and is the current Illinois Quarter Horse Association President.

Tanna, her husband (Greg) and twin 10 year old boys (Logan & Connor) live just outside of Rantoul, IL. Tanna currently works at the Gifford State Bank in the Ag Dept, is an IL Notary Public and holds her Property, Casualty, & Crop Insurance licenses. Greg is the Farm Manager for Ehler Bros and their boys are in 4th grade at St. Malachy School in Rantoul. They raise corn, soybeans, hay and Registered Angus cattle. They also have two quarter horses, Willy Suit My Fancy (Albert) and Big Time Bubba (Bubba) that they show and the boys rope with.

Extend a warm welcome to new Champaign County Board Member **Doug Downs**. Doug represents Ayers Township. Doug farms entirely Frito Lay white and yellow corn as well as non GMO soybeans. His interest in agriculture took hold at a very young age saying, “I grew up on a rented farm near Sidell and dreamed of the day I could call something my own. That day took a really long time. I was a child of the 80’s and very few people in my high school returned back to farm. We were all discouraged from doing so. I had to work a lot of odd jobs, night jobs, and shake a lot of bushes to get to this point. I have been lucky to gain value added specialty contracts for everything I farm and that has been instrumental to my operation.”

Being on the board will allow Doug to focus on several agriculture issues of interest. His top three include access to rural broadband - adequate and reliable broadband services are right behind adequate and reliable electricity; school funding - the schools are completely reliant on farmland values, and there needs to be an alternate source of funding; the state is broke - there is no fixing it with-



# March Report



Paul Hunsinger, CCFB President

## President, Paul Hunsinger

As the new President of the Champaign County Farm Bureau I would like to say a huge thanks to Mike Briggs for being President for the last three years. Mike has done a great job serving the Farm Bureau and helping the voice of ag to be heard. I have enjoyed working with Mike the last three years that I have been on the board. Thank You Mike!

Having grown up on my family's farm north of Mahomet, I have always had a passion for agriculture. I attended the University of Illinois and majored in Technology Systems Management and minored in Crop Science. After graduating from Illinois I went to work for AHW as the Precision Ag Solution Specialist dealing with all the new electronics and technology on machinery. In 2020, the great opportunity to come back to the family farm presented itself and now I am helping manage it with my father and sister.

I think this year is going to be an exciting year with lots of opportunity! The Farm Bureau has some great programming planned for this year and hopefully we can get back into some in person meetings as well. We are pleasantly surprised at how well the virtual meetings have gone this last year and how many more people we are able to reach.

I hope everyone stays safe out there as we start preparing for the spring planting season and I look forward to meeting you all as I make it around the county for different events this year!

Sincerely,  
Paul Hunsinger

## Prime Timers is BACK!

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

**by Monday, March 8**

**Call the CCFB Office 217-352-5235**

**Meeting Date: March 11 @ 10 a.m.**

**Program: Gail Cunningham**

**Entertainment: David Fulton**

**Meal cost: \$8 per person**

### Important changes

- Lunch – There will **NOT** be a fried chicken buffet.
  - Lunch will consist of a box lunch.
  - Mask required for entry.
  - No walk-ins.
  - Meeting is limited to 35 people. Call to reserve your spot.
- First come/first served

## CCFB Calendar of Events

### March 2021

|                 |                               |                  |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>March 8</b>  | <b>Women's Committee ZOOM</b> | <b>9:30 a.m.</b> |
| <b>March 11</b> | <b>Prime Timers</b>           | <b>10 a.m.</b>   |
| <b>March 16</b> | <b>Governmental Affairs</b>   | <b>7:30 a.m.</b> |
| <b>March 18</b> | <b>Full Board</b>             | <b>6:30 p.m.</b> |

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

- Raghela Scavuzzo from the Illinois Farm Bureau discussing farm diversification and niche marketing opportunities.
- Illinois Farm Bureau President Rich Guebert discusses priorities for the IAA Board in 2021.
- A virtual discussion with Jim Nowlan on the state of politics in Illinois.
- Listen in on the conversation about CONSERVATION. Topics discussed include grassed waterways & filter strips.
- CCFB Legislative Update with IFB's Kevin Semlow & Adam Nielsen
- 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.
- Catch up on the latest Governmental Affairs issues.



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# Maggi's Membership Corner

By Maggi Maxstadt, CCFB Membership & Outreach Coordinator



We made it to March, Farm Bureau members! After a rather cold and snowy February, I'm looking forward to spring (my favorite season)! At Champaign County Farm Bureau, we are working on planning our calendar for the year. This includes trips, meetings, and other events!

We are currently offering two trips for 2021, but more are getting scheduled! This year, we ask that your trip be paid in full when the registration is

taken. To register, please call 217-352-5235.

The first trip is Wednesday, April 28, to Myers Dinner Theatre in Hillsboro, Indiana. The show is the Marvelous Wonderettes, and the cost is \$85. The second trip is on Wednesday, May 12. The CIRCA 21 Theatre in Rock Island is showing the Church Basement Ladies. The cost is \$112.

## NURSING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION AVAILABLE

Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be 15 scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, granted this year.

The scholarship program, now in its twenty-ninth year, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a Registered Nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program.

Applications are available at county Farm Bureaus® throughout the state, on the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at RIMSAP.com, or by writing Donna Gallivan, program manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, PO Box 2901, Bloomington, IL 61702-2901. Applications are due May 1.

For additional information, contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350, or via email at dgallivan@ilfb.org.

"Hello, Spring!"

## ATTENTION: FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

The Farm Bureau protects the future of your farm and your neighbors farms all year long. Today, membership can save you up to \$500 on new Case IH tractors and equipment!\*

### SAVE \$200

#### TRACTORS

- Farmall® Compact A Series
- Farmall Compact C Series
- Farmall Utility A Series
- Farmall 100A Series
- Farmall Utility C Series
- Farmall Utility U Series
- Farmall V Series
- Farmall N Series

#### HAY EQUIPMENT

- Round Balers
- Small Square Balers
- Disc Mower Conditioners
- Sicklebar Mower Conditioners

### SAVE \$500

#### TRACTORS

- Vestrum® Series
- Maxxum® Series

#### HAY EQUIPMENT

- Large Square Balers
- Self-Propelled Windrowers

Print your certificate today!†

Visit [www.fb.org/about/join](http://www.fb.org/about/join)



\* Offer available through 12/31/2021. This offer may be combined with other offers, but is not valid on prior purchases. A valid Farm Bureau® Membership Certificate is required, which may be obtained at [www.fb.org/about/join](http://www.fb.org/about/join). See your participating Case IH dealer for details and eligibility requirements. Not available in all states. Offer subject to change or cancellation without notice.

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† A current Farm Bureau membership verification certificate must be presented to the Case IH dealer in advance of product delivery to receive the incentive discount.

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March begins the busy season of meetings, including Prime Timers, Women's Committee, Governmental Affairs, and more! Check page 2 of the newsletter to see what meetings we are offering in-person for March. For more details on upcoming events or all things Champaign Farm Bureau, head to our website [ccfarmbureau.com](http://ccfarmbureau.com).

You can find past virtual meetings on our website as well. These include an update from Richard Guebert, the ILFB President, a conversation about conservation, and many more.

Contact [ccfb@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:ccfb@ccfarmbureau.com) with suggestions for meetings and events. As always, we appreciate having you as a member of the Champaign County Farm Bureau!

Meet the Board  
continued from Page 1

out complete pension and government operation reform.

Doug is passionate about agriculture and also has an interest in governmental affairs. According to Doug, "We need to be ready for what the "new" regime in Washington is going to possibly force upon us. We have excellent market opportunities in our area and it's easy to take advantage of some of those. We should probably be focusing resources on efficiencies here and there in addition to learning and adopting other methods of stewardship."

Doug and his wife are the proud parents of a 6th grader and 9th grader. They also stay busy owning and operating Curtis Road Animal Hospital in Savoy. When Doug and his family can carve out some fun time they usually head to Table Rock Lake in Missouri. Doug claims he is "going to learn how to fish someday if and whenever I can retire. I have a campsite down there and any little chance I can go, I like to take the family away."

Volunteering for the farm bureau runs in Doug's blood. His late father, David Downs, was a past president in Vermilion County and served as an Illinois Farm Bureau District 12 Director for 10 years.

**Daniel Gaither** will be representing the Young Ag Leaders on the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Daniel attended the University of Illinois, majoring in Agribusiness Markets & Management with a minor in Agricultural Safety. After graduating, he began his career at Premier Cooperative as a Hedge Desk Specialist. Luck was on his side saying, "A position in the safety field at Premier opened up and I was able to pursue my passion in agricultural safety as Safety Manager. In August of 2019, I switched gears from agricultural safety in a farmer-owned grain cooperative to agricultural safety in higher education when I became the Director of Safety for the College of ACES at the University of Illinois."

Daniel's agriculture interests include agricultural safety, both for youth and adults.

Daniel has been a member of Young Ag Leaders since 2016 and lives in Urbana with his wife and "the best dog in the world - Elwood." A neat fact about Daniel, "I have been working on a 1978 Chevrolet C10 Bonanza for 16+ years and still have about 16 more years' worth of work to do on it."

**Kaitlin Tharp** is a new face to the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Kaitlin Tharp represents Colfax Township. Kaitlin grew up on her family's farm in White Heath, IL. She graduated from the University of Illinois in Agribusiness and works as a Sales Agronomist for United Prairie.

There is much to be excited about when looking at the future of agriculture. Being a member on the board of directors gives new insights into many issues. Kaitlin's top three issues to focus on for agriculture include excessive regulations, supplier buyouts creating monopolies, and increased capital gains tax/lowered estate tax threshold. Kaitlin says she is also "excited to get involved with marketing and Agriculture in the Classroom!"

Kaitlin's spare time includes spending time with her husband Clint. She is also busy with her two stepsons, Braxton and Eli, and one year old daughter, Paisley. Sporting events, family walks and bike rides fill her time.

## RURAL NURSE PRACTITIONER Scholarship Program

May 1, 2021 Deadline



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## MRS. KAPER'S CLASSROOM



### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY AG IN THE CLASSROOM

Tell your favorite  
teacher about Ag in the  
Classroom

Whether your school district is fully remote, in-person, or a hybrid, Ag in the Classroom is prepared to teach and deliver resources to all teachers in all county schools. We count on you to get the word out to teachers. Our Summer Ag Institute 2021 will be an in-person event for teachers showing practical ways to put the "A" for agriculture into STEM to make it STEAM! Pass the invitation below onto your teachers!



Mrs. Kaper's  
Classroom



Champaign County  
Ag in the Classroom

*You're Invited*

Thursday, March 25 @ 4:00

*to an exclusive 15-minute preview*  
of

**Summer Ag Institute 2021**

June 8-10

- Learn how to get free resources and lessons for your classroom
- Discover ways to incorporate Ag into what you are already doing
- Earn professional development credits
- Meet new teachers

**FREE**

Door prizes awarded at the end  
of the presentation.  
Must be present to win!



Contact Sarah for more information:  
sarah@ccfarmbureau.com

**Be in the Know!**



Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation



### Foundation Seats New Board Members, Elects Leadership Team

Congratulations to Cory Mitchell who has been re-elected to a one-year term as President of the CCFB Foundation Board of Directors. This is Mitchell's third term as President of the organization. Also elected to leadership roles were Jessica Patzwith who will serve as Vice-President, Jason Bartell who was elected Treasurer and Cheryl Hartke as Secretary.

Three new members were added to the board. Kyle Emkes, Gary Lewis and Christopher Murray were appointed to serve three-year terms.

Retiring from the Board of Directors were Chris Karr and Jan Meyer. Karr and Meyer had both served the organization for two, three-year terms and had given much time to the Foundation. Karr had served as Chairman of the Foundations Ag in the Classroom Committee for five years. We thank Karr and Meyer for their dedication to our mission and service to our organization.

### 2021 CCFB Foundation Board of Directors

**Cory Mitchell, President**  
Farm Credit Illinois

**Jessica Patzwith, Vice President**  
Longview Bank

**Jason Bartell, Treasurer**  
Bartell Powell LLP

**Cheryl Hartke, Secretary**  
Professional Speaker & External Facilitator

**Brian Arends**  
AHW LLC

**Kory Kraus**  
Ilini FS

**Amy Sage**  
The Andersons Inc.

**Robert Carlson**  
Grain Industry Executive

**Brian Krukewitt**  
Krukewitt Farms

**David Shenaut, Ph.D.**  
Bayer Crop Sciences

**Kyle Emkes**  
Maatuka, Al-Heeti, Emkes LLC

**Christopher Murray**  
Murray Farms

**Matt Hoose**  
Prospect Bank

**Dale Franzen**  
Franzen Farms

**Gary Lewis**  
Regional Office of Education #9

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday - June 17th



### 2021 Summer Celebration Gala

Same Foundation Gala! Same Friends! Same Fine Food!  
Happening Summer 2021...and we can't wait to see you!

June 8th - 10th

### Summer Ag Institute is Back!



Let your favorite teacher know about this amazing opportunity to earn continuing education credits, learn about agriculture, and get FREE resources and lessons for their classroom! Exact dates to be finalized.



### Thursday - August 5th GolfFORE Ag

Line up your team! Polish those clubs!  
Fun on the fairways is already in the works!

Thursday/Friday - September 23rd & 24th

### NEW! FUNDRAISING EVENT

SSSHHH! It's still top secret!

More info coming soon on this new exciting event  
that will send you straight over the edge!!

**More details on all events coming soon!**





FROM THE FIELD



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

*by Dr. Howard Brown*

**Little residual Plant-Available Nitrogen (PAN) may remain** in the upper two feet of the soil profile as we prepare for the 2021 growing season. Optimum corn yields across most of East-Central Illinois likely utilized most of the 2020 applied and mineralized soil N. Want an estimate of what remains in the upper 2 feet of the soil profile? Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist to learn more about Nu-TRACKERPlus or visit [www.nutrackerplus.com](http://www.nutrackerplus.com). The tool created by Illini FS provides a snapshot of plant-available nutrition, including N, S, B, and Zn. Information provided will help make management decisions regarding the need for supplemental nutrient applications. No better time to try the tool than the 2021 growing season.

**Ammonium-N is considered a stable form of N.** Nitrogen that remains in the ammonium-N form is not susceptible to loss by denitrification (in saturated soils). It is an ion that carries a positive charge ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ). This positive charge is attracted to the negatively charged soil surface (Cation Exchange Capacity or CEC) minimizing movement with soil water. Ammonium-N is considered a reduced form of plant-available N (no oxygen, only hydrogens attached to the N). Without oxygen, denitrification (microbial removal of oxygen) cannot occur. Nitrogen applied last fall with a proven nitrification inhibitor will likely have a greater percent of ammonium-N remaining yet this spring, minimizing potential loss by denitrification as the soils warm up and become saturated with the early spring rains.

**Unfortunately, loss of some phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) applied to bare frozen and/or snow-covered soil** may have occurred over the past few weeks. Melting snow and rainfall can solubilize some of the applied P and K fertilizers not fixed by the frozen soil, moving nutrients away from the site of application (100% of K and over 90% of most P fertilizers are water soluble at time of application). The significance of the loss will be nearly impossible to determine since loss of water-soluble nutrients in runoff water are invisible. One way to estimate nutrient loss is to collect a water sample in an adjacent ditch and have it tested for ortho-phosphate, ammonia and water-soluble potassium. Elevated concentrations of any of these nutrients suggest off-target movement.

**Nu-TRACKER Plus is a management tool** that estimates the concentration and location of PAN, sulfur and boron in the upper two feet of the soil profile. The tool allows a farmer to inventory, track, and verify the concentrations over time at a specific location in a field. This information will help make management decisions on whether or not supplemental nutrients should be considered to optimize harvest yield.

**Nitrogen Management Systems should include a broadcast source of N preplant.** When cold soils prevent/minimize any microbial N release (mineralization) of soil N, consider a broadcast N application ahead of planting (or starter fertilizer) to get the corn crop off to a good start. There may be adequate N applied for the cropping season, but unless it is close to the row, the seedling corn plants may exhibit a temporary N deficiency (positionally unavailable). The use of auto-steer or guidance systems may help offset the need for a broadcast N source pre-plant, if the corn row can be placed in close proximity to a knifed or banded N application. Plant the row close to, not over, the N, especially if the N source is anhydrous ammonia applied prior to planting. If the seedling crop does not receive a supplement source of N close

to the row, anticipate a temporary light green or yellowed corn and slow early growth once the corn reaches V3 (three true leaves on the plant). Anticipate a temporary N deficiency (early growth), especially where corn residue is incorporated two to three weeks ahead of planting (corn following corn) and no N has been applied broadcast.

**The value of using a Spring nitrification inhibitor** will depend upon the weather following the N application. If a prolonged wet Spring and/or early growing season is anticipated, nitrification inhibitors (N-Serve and Instinct) will provide some confidence that N loss will be minimized). If rains are anticipated to be infrequent and ½ inch or less in volume, it will likely be a challenge to find value in stabilizing applied N. It is all about when the applied N converts to nitrate-N and if the soil environment promotes loss. If there is a risk of the soils to be saturated between April and the latter part of May, a way to hedge environmental risk of N loss is to stabilize the N at the time of application.

**Anhydrous ammonia Watch-Out.** Avoid planting directly above where anhydrous ammonia has been applied this Spring. Wet soil conditions at time of application may result in side-wall compaction, leaving a vertical gap for free ammonia to collect. If the seed, young roots or seedling plant comes into contact with free ammonia, plant injury or death may occur. Utilize guidance systems to place the planted row in close proximity to the application of anhydrous ammonia. Limited research out of Purdue suggests a good crop response when a knifed N application is oriented within a few inches of the planted row.



**Start post-emerge N applications earlier rather than later.** Post-applied N use continues to be a sound agronomic, economic, and environmentally-friendly practice with effective N Management Systems. Start the post-applied N applications at, or soon following, the V3 stage of growth. The plant begins to rely on the nodal root system for nutrient and water uptake once three leaves are fully extended. Unless planted into a coarse-textured soil (sandy), delaying N applications for a later stage of growth may result in missing an application window due to frequent rain events or having no rain event to get the applied N into the plant.

**Pre-plant N application for soybeans.** The potential for lack of residual profile N following the 2020 crop suggests that there may be little plant-available N in the upper soil profile this Spring. Although soybean plants have a symbiotic relationship with soil N-fixing bacteria, N is not produced for plant utilization until about two weeks after emergence. Young soybean plants rely on residual soil N until active microbial N fixation begins. An application of 30 to 50 pounds of N would serve as a starter N source in an On-Farm Discovery Project. Although a soybean growth response is anticipated, a consistent increase in harvest yield may or may not occur, the reason this treatment is considered an On-Farm Discovery Trial. Want to test for soybean response to supplemental N? Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist for more information about On-Farm Discovery or to sign-up for a trial.





**Nathan Hubbard**  
COUNTRY Financial  
Agency Manager



**Rhonda Wagner**  
Administrative Assistant  
Champaign Agency



**Dan Punkay**  
328-0023



**Bret Kroencke**  
359-9391

## J.D. Power Recognizes COUNTRY Financial as a National Leader

*COUNTRY PR Specialist*

*Emily Derege,*



**Travis Heath**  
352-4555



**Kolby Jackson**  
586-5030

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – J.D. Power recently named COUNTRY Financial® as the national leader in the J.D. Power 2020 U.S. Home Insurance StudySM. The insurance and financial provider, with offices in 19 states, topped all other homeowners insurers in client satisfaction in the study.



**Keith Garrett**  
485-3010



**Chris Greenwold**  
355-8675

“We are humbled by the results of the J.D. Power study because it’s a testament to the work we have done to create a great experience for our clients,” said COUNTRY Financial Chief Experience Officer Andrea Thorpe. “And it doesn’t stop here; we continue to look for ways to improve our client experience, protecting what matters most to them and helping them plan for their future.”



**Jessie DeHaan**  
352-3466



**Dan Duitsman**  
469-2033

The U.S. Home Insurance Study surveyed more than 8,700 clients on five factors of overall client satisfaction: interaction, policy offerings, price, billing processes and policy information, and claims. The study found the top drivers that influence a client’s decision to renew their homeowner’s insurance with an existing provider are good client experience, reputation and convenience.



**Jordan McDaniel**  
217-352-9817



**John May**  
352-3341

“Client satisfaction has never been more important than in 2020,” said Jim Jacobs, chief executive officer for COUNTRY Financial. “With major events this year like the Western wildfires, Midwest Derecho, and hurricanes across the South, we understand how important it is to provide the value and client experience that our clients have come to expect from COUNTRY.”



**Terry Hill**  
469-9800



**Austin Beaty**  
352-0012



**Jim Nelson**  
892-4479



**Aaron Wheeler**  
586-6170



**Nate Lovekamp**  
352-0012



**Scott Jackson**  
359-9335



**Dawn Babb**  
892-4479



**Andrew Deedrich**  
359-3941



**Steve Derry**  
352-2655



# At The Farm Gate: Food Brings Everyone To The Table

By Joanie Stiers, March 2021

On a recent winter evening, my kids announced that we had missed National Blueberry Pancake Day.

“Alexa” had told them about it. They continued to chuckle, ask questions and give commands to this internet-connected smart speaker, which responds to the name Alexa. On their cue, the robotic female voice delivers generally unimportant facts and plays exaggerated noises of passing gas. And that, of course, generates more laughter.

For nearly a pandemic year, our household motto rather has provided a lesson in life: Be happy making the best of the situation. Alexa helps with that. And had I known about this special day for fruity flapjack on January 28, I would have made blueberry pancakes on that Thursday morning. Just for fun.

Most of my life, I passed off “National Day” events with a no-need attitude. For sake of humility, we didn’t need cause holidays. Maybe we do. Besides making the best of things, this pandemic era has taught us the desperate need to listen more and practice empathy.

That said, agriculture deserves its day, too. National Ag Day is March 23, 2021, a date to recognize that modern agriculture sustains life. The food, fiber and fuel this industry provides gives Americans the nutritional energy for the day, the shirt on their backs, the shelter overhead, and the renewable fuel to drive away from home when COVID allows.

Economically, agriculture ranks the No. 1 industry in Illinois. Environmentally, farms grow more with fewer resources, essential in a world where the population grows larger by the day. Emotionally, agriculture remains at the core of our nation’s greatness with an overwhelming majority of farms (97% in Illinois) still owned by families, often generations of them.

A century ago, nearly one-third of the American population farmed, suppressing the need for a National Ag Day. More people held a direct farm connection, largely lost now that fewer than 2% of Americans farm. Modern advancements allow people to pursue careers unrelated to farming and for each farmer to feed more than 166 people, a dramatic increase from 25 in the 1960s, according to the American Agriculture Council of America.

Since Thanksgiving, I have intended to replicate the beloved turkey dinner with classic fixings that we anticipate and enjoy only once a year. Why not savor it more. I decided that National Ag Day will dictate the occasion, a fitting way to celebrate how food brings everyone to the table.

Learn more about National Ag Day at [www.agday.org](http://www.agday.org).

About the author: Joanie Stiers’ family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.

## Growers to ensure safe transportation and application of anhydrous ammonia through new training requirement

Effective November 13, 2021, growers and grower farm operators who transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment, are now required to become certified through a new safety training requirement.

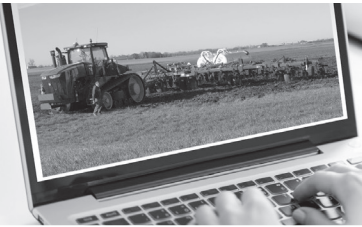


Although the vast majority of anhydrous ammonia is moved in Illinois each spring and fall application season without incident, there are occasional releases that occur that could have been prevented with some simple reminders on the properties of anhydrous ammonia, standard safe operating practices, and actions to take in the event of a leak or emergency.


This new requirement is found in the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) regulations regarding anhydrous ammonia at 8 Illinois Administrative Code 215. In the regulations, “grower” is defined as “any individual who produces and agricultural commodity on property he or she owns or controls.” “Grower farm operator” is defined as “an individual employed by or otherwise authorized by a grower to transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or to otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment. These individuals include grower family members, full-time and part-time hired help, and others providing anhydrous ammonia services at no fee.”

Growers and grower farm operators have until April 1, 2022 to be initially certified and must participate in refresher training every three years.

Certified grower training will be offered at no cost to the grower

or grower farm operator via an in-person or online training program approved by the IDOA. Online is now available on the IDOA website at [www.Bit.ly/IllinoisNH3](http://www.Bit.ly/IllinoisNH3). In-person training opportunities will be announced as they are developed.





### ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

*Certified Grower Training*

#### FREE Online Training

[www.Bit.ly/IllinoisNH3](http://www.Bit.ly/IllinoisNH3)

All growers or grower farm operators who transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment, shall be certified to understand:

- Properties of ammonia.
- Competent in safe operating practices.
- How to take appropriate actions in the event of a leak or emergency.
- Personal Protective Equipment & First Aid.
- Transportation Safety.

Growers and grower farm operators have until April 1, 2022 to be initially certified, and must participate in refresher training every three years.

Certified grower training will be offered at no cost to the grower or grower farm operator via an in-person or online training program approved by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA).

Online is now available on the IDOA website at [www.Bit.ly/IllinoisNH3](http://www.Bit.ly/IllinoisNH3). In-person training opportunities will be announced as they are developed.

### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday  
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Foundation Director -- Kirk Bulta

Contact us at (217) 352-5235  
[www.ccfarmbureau.com](http://www.ccfarmbureau.com)

## Agricultural Safety Awareness Program Week

February 28-March 6, 2021

Watch for daily topics on:  
Farmer Roadway Safety  
Caretaker Support

General Farmer Wellness  
Mental Health

Community Roadway  
Safety



AGRICULTURAL  
SAFETY  
AWARENESS  
PROGRAM





# 2021 Champaign County Farm Bureau April & May Trips/Tours

April 28, 2021 (Wednesday)

## The Marvelous Wonderettes, Myers Dinner Theatre – Hillsboro IN

This Off-Broadway smash hit takes us to the 1958 Springfield High School Prom where we meet the Wonderettes. As we learn about their lives and loves, we are treated to the girls performing classic



50's & 60's hits such as "Lollipop," "Dream Lover," "Stupid Cupid," "Lipstick on Your Collar," "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me," "It's My Party," and over 20 additional hits! You have never had this much fun at prom, and you will never forget this must-take musical trip down memory lane.

Price per person: \$85.00 – Gratuity included in price  
Deadline to register or cancel reservations is March 26, 2021



May 12, 2021 (Wednesday)

## Church Basement Ladies, CIRCA 21- Rock Island, IL

From the basement to the barn, your beloved Church Basement Ladies are back and getting busy with life outside the kitchen in this installment of the popular series. After the last of the hotdish is served, the coffee pot is emptied, and the Jello molds are put



away, these steady, sturdy women head to their farms, peel off their good girdles, and get on with their daily chores. In between picking eggs, milking cows, and dusting knickknacks, they congregate with some of the other lovable folks who inhabit this rural community. With plenty of crazy antics, loads of fresh laughs, and brand spanking new original songs, YOU SMELL BARN celebrates rural life in the 1950's. And, at the center of it all, are your favorite Church Basement Ladies!!

Price per person: \$ – \$112.00 - Gratuity included in price  
Deadline to register or cancel reservations is April 9, 2021



### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- We have been assured that both theaters and the bus companies we are using will be following proper CDC & Health Department guidelines, as it pertains to COVID 19.
- 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.

Join food writer, farmer and Iowa native Cristen Clark as she creates Italian-style grinder sandwiches the whole family will love in a virtual cooking event!

**Wednesday, March 3**  
**5:30-6:45 p.m.**

**Register here: <https://on.ilfb.org/inthekitchen>**

## WOMEN'S COMMITTEE RECIPE OF THE MONTH Submitted by Kathy Mullins

### Guinness Chocolate Cake

(Published in Taste of Home)

I call this "St. Patrick's Cake". A very moist cake and I laugh when I make it because it makes me think of The Frugal Gourmet way of cooking. Recipe only calls for only a cup of Guinness, so some for the recipe and some for the baker. ♥ Happy St. Patrick's Day!

#### Ingredients

- 1 Cup Guinness dark beer
- 1/2 Cup butter, cubed
- 2 Cups sugar
- 3/4 Cup dark baking Cocoa
- 2 large eggs, beaten, room temperature
- 2/3 Cup sour cream
- 3 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 Cups all purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoon baking soda

#### Topping:

- 1 package (8oz) cream cheese, softened
- 1 1/2 Cups Confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 Cup heavy whipping cream
- Additional toppings optional
- Green food coloring to tint topping
- St. Patrick's Day Sprinkles
- Gold sprinkling sugar

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 9" springform pan and line the bottom with parchment paper; set aside.

In a small saucepan, heat beer and butter until butter is melted. Remove from heat; whisk in sugar and cocoa until blended. Combine the eggs, sour cream and vanilla; whisk into beer mixture. Combine flour and baking soda; whisk into the beer mixture and mix really good until mixture is smooth. Pour into prepared 9" springform pan.

Bake for 45-50 minutes. Test doneness by inserting toothpick into center of cake. Toothpick should come out clean. If does not bake just a few more minutes.

Cool completely in pan on a wire rack. When cooled, remove cake from pan and place on plate or cake stand.

In a large bowl, beat softened cream cheese until fluffy. Add the confectioners' sugar and cream mixture until smooth. Frost the top of cake OR before frosting top of cake, you can add couple drops green food coloring to tint it green. Can also blend to make a swirl color.

At this point you can add optional sprinkles or gold sprinkling sugar of choice.

Slice and enjoy!

Store remainder of cake covered in refrigerator.

Makes 12 servings.

### Building a Farm-to-Foodbank Program Together

TELL US WHAT CAN  
WORK IN ILLINOIS



Farm to Foodbank  
Survey

LOCAL CONDITIONS, OPPORTUNITIES AND BARRIERS



Prairie Research  
Institute  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Illinois farmers complete the survey by March 15.  
<http://go.illinois.edu/farm2foodbanksurvey>