

Champaign County Farmers Take the Lead

It’s a unique time to be involved in agriculture in Champaign County. Several Champaign County farmers are in leadership positions at a state or national agriculture organization including GROWMARK, Illinois Corn Growers Association, Illinois Corn Marketing Board, Illinois Soybean Association, and the National Association of Conservation Districts. These local ag leaders are dedicating their time and talents to making a difference in the future of agriculture.



Sarah Hastings

Sarah Hastings has been involved with the Illinois Corn Growers Association (ICGA) since January 2019. Sarah is the current Treasurer for the Illinois Corn Growers and will hold this position until November 2021. Sarah’s involvement with ICGA began with a simple ask. According to Sarah she was asked to represent District 6 which means “I answer to farmers in Champaign, Vermilion, Iroquois and Ford Counties. I

talked with some other directors and went to a board meeting and I really liked what I was hearing. There are many important issues agriculture faces and it felt good to be able to funnel some energy into finding ways to help farmers be successful at their jobs.”

Sarah says this year the ICGA Board is busy tackling several current issues including, “trying to level the playing field for the gasoline and electric vehicle markets. Currently, emissions are measured coming out of the tailpipe in all mathematic models and this isn’t a fair representation of all that corn ethanol has to offer. The biomass of the growing crop has the ability to sequester carbon and when using clean burning ethanol as a source of high octane, communities notice fewer greenhouse gas aromatics. A strong ethanol market helps stabilize and keep a strong corn price.

With the new administration, climate is a big issue. We want to be seen as the solution to the problem and be recognized for our conservation efforts that we already do. I don’t think many people realize how much

farmers care for the land they are stewards of. It needs to be available and productive for generations. We are in it for the long run.

Upgrading and maintaining our locks and dams is always a very important issue. We are blessed that we have a river system that can move bushels so efficiently. Barge traffic has the lowest carbon footprint of any freight option. The US Army Corp of Engineers just completed a rehab of the LaGrange Lock and Dam near Versailles. These upgrades are essential in moving our crop so that we can take advantage of a thriving export market.”



Doug Schroeder

Champaign County farmer **Doug Schroeder** has been involved with the

Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) for eight years. He is currently in his second and final year as Chairman of the Board. Doug’s interactions with ISA began approximately 20 years ago when he was a DuPont Young Leader. Taking on a leadership role by serving as a District Director began when he was asked by the CEO of the Board to join the ISA team. Doug’s volunteer role fits with his belief that, “Farmers have a long, rich desire of wanting to leave things better than they found them. I believe the soybean board can make “things” better for the state soybean farmers. We all need to take our turn in the barrel to make farming better for the next generation.”

The Illinois Soybean Association is currently dealing with several agriculture issues. Doug points to four areas of interest that ISA is working on, “Biodiesel - We have a sales tax exemption in the state for biodiesel blends of 11% and higher. That exemption sunsets in a couple of years.

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Merging County Offices on April 6 Ballot

Voters heading to the polls on April 6, 2021, for the Consolidated Election will find a referendum on the ballot asking voters to approve the merger of the Champaign County Recorder’s Office with the Champaign County Clerk’s Office. If voters approve the merger, the Champaign County Clerk would assume the responsibilities of the Recorder’s Office. It is estimated that Champaign County would save approximately \$60,000 with the merger of the two offices if the funds are not allocated elsewhere.

By a vote of 18-3, the County Board approved the question for the ballot to read

SHALL THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BE ELIMINATED AND ALL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF DEEDS BE TRANSFERRED TO THE OFFICE

OF THE COUNTY CLERK OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ON APRIL 1, 2022.

What does the Recorder do? According to the Champaign County Recorder’s website, “The Champaign County Recorder of Deeds serves the people of Champaign County by receiving, filing and maintaining all records related to real property in our county. These documents range from all types of conveyance deeds, mortgages, releases and assignments, property liens, as well as assorted federal and local liens. The Recorder’s office is responsible for the recordation and storage of plats of subdivisions, land surveys and monument records. Many other types of miscellaneous documents are recorded, such as; foreign birth certificates, foreign marriage licenses, and military discharge paperwork, to name a few.”

County Board Member Jim Goss would like to see the two offices stay separate saying, “The Recorder’s

Office is one of the only offices that brings in a positive cash flow. In fact, last year alone the Recorder’s office brought in \$750,000 into the county general fund. I do love the idea of smaller government, but I am worried about the level of service that would be provided if the offices merged.”

Champaign County is currently 1 of 12 Illinois counties that still have a separate Recorder’s Office and a separate Clerk’s Office. Due to the large number of real estate transactions that occur in Champaign County each year the Recorder’s Office must pay great attention to detail and be accurate with all their records. If voters approve the merger, employees of the Recorder’s Office will be under the supervision of the County Clerk.

Voters have a lot to consider between now and April 6 when they head to the polls. Voter turnout is typically lower in the April election, make sure to get out and have your vote count.

March Report



Paul Hunsinger, CCFB President

President, Paul Hunsinger

Happy Spring Everyone! I am excited to say that the Farm Bureau Office has opened up. The Prime Timer's had their first meeting in over a year at the Farm Bureau Auditorium in March. There was a great turn out and Gerald Henry had a great morning planned out. Watch out for more of our meetings offering in person options going forward!

As you guys know April 6th is voting day. There will be quite a few races on the ballot, including our own Brad Uken running for Parkland College Board of Trustees. There will also be a proposal to merge the Office of the Recorder into the County Clerk's Office. I urge you all to make sure you are informed about the issues and candidates and then go vote to help the voice of Agriculture be heard.

With planting season on the horizon, I want to wish you all a fun and safe planting season.

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. ~ **Robert Louis Stevenson**

Sincerely,
Paul Hunsinger

Prime Timers is BACK!

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

by Monday, April 5

Call the CCFB Office 217-352-5235

Meeting Date: April 8 @ 10 a.m.

Program: Kelsi Kessler,

Miss Illinois County Fair Queen

Entertainment: Logan Kirby

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 April 2021

April 8	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
April 12	Women's Committee	9:30 a.m.
April 13	Governmental Affairs	7:30 a.m.
April 15	Full Board	6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meetings are posted at www.ccfarmbureau.com

- An update with the National Agricultural Statistics Service
- Raghela Scavuzzo from the Illinois Farm Bureau discussing farm diversification and niche marketing opportunities.
- Marketing Club features Doug Yoder, COUNTRY Financial, & Steve Freed, ADM, discussing crop insurance and crop 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.

Women's Committee

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

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING

APRIL 12TH AT 9:30AM

Featuring speaker Brooke Buzzard,
Cunningham Children's Home



RURAL NURSE PRACTITIONER Scholarship Program

May 1, 2021 Deadline



RIMSAP.com

*Helping to meet the needs
of primary care in rural Illinois*





Maggi’s Membership Corner

By Maggi Maxstadt, CCFB Membership & Outreach Coordinator

Once you’re logged in to the website or app, you can search for all the discounts offered worldwide—over 302,000. It’s a great place to dream about vacations across the US and abroad!

CCFB is looking to expand our listing of local discounts. Are there any local businesses, restaurants, or programs you would like to see in the list of local benefits? Send them my way!

Currently, we have 2020 plat books for sale and trips you can register for! You can find more information in the newsletter or on our website. That’s all for April, Farm Bureau members! If you are out in the field planting this month, please be careful. See you next month!

You can find all of the discounts offered to Farm Bureau members on Abenity through ilfb.abenity.com, or through the IFB Member Benefits app on Android and iOS systems. To see the benefits, use the membership number found on the front of your Farm Bureau card and register.

Can’t find your card? Contact the CCFB office at 217-352-5235, and we will be happy to look up your membership number.

SERVICES

BENEFITS & SERVICES

NOTARY SERVICE: Free service, just stop by the office to get your documents notarized.

FARM BUREAU TRIPS: All members welcome to join us on one or all of the many trips that are planned each year. Ask for your copy of the Trip Booklet to look at the trips for this year!

PEACH SALE: During June members can pre-order delicious Southern Illinois peaches.

PLAT BOOKS: The most current Champaign County Plat Books are available in the CCFB Office or on our website at a member cost of \$27.50.

COMMITTEES: Members can become involved in many different committees, which include:

Marketing	Governmental Affairs
Young Ag Leaders	Women's
Prime Timers	Livestock
FB Connect (Formerly ALOYTT)	

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Champaign, IL 61821

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LOCAL BENEFIT GUIDE



Take advantage of your benefits!
We offer 302,000+ discounts worldwide.
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for the full listing of discounts!

Find the Local Benefit Guide on our website, ccfarmbureau.com, under Membership and Champaign County Local Member Benefits

Member Perks

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ILLINOIS
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IFB Benefits

This is the new Android App for Farm Bureau Benefits!

Welcome to the Board

Champaign County Farm Bureau recently welcomed several new members to its Board of Directors. New directors will be featured 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.

Bob Barker is a new face to the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors representing Champaign Township. Bob grew up on the family farm and lives there today. His family has two, 100 year farms in the family. One of the farms is in Tuscola and the other farm is in Champaign County.

In addition to farming, Bob worked at Hill Ford from 1986–2003. Currently, he farms and still gets helpful advice from his dad. Joining the CCFB Board of Directors is giving Bob the opportunity to become more involved in legislative and governmental affairs. Being on the board will also allow Bob to focus on other areas of interest including rising farm expenses and county government.

Bob and his wife have three children, three grandchildren, and love spending time at Lake of the Ozarks, MO.

FOR RENT

Nice barn in the Tolono, IL area. City water, concrete floor, and electricity.

Call 217-485-8575 for details.

Phones Planted Like Pliers In Farmer Pockets

By Joanie Stiers

I still remember the spring when an unnamed farmer attempted to grow a crop of cell phones.

While outside the tractor cab in the field, he had dropped then driven over his two-week-old cell phone twice. Once with a planter and soon after with a tillage implement that placed it sub surface like a seed.

The soil rang. He found the phone. The dirtyflip phone (this was 2009) could dial the local equipment dealership with a breakdown. However, the shattered screen left him unable to read a text message about the commodity markets. A new phone soon suspended from a bungee cord on his collar, safe keeping for a device that farmers, like most Americans, find too important to go without.

Cell phones, and specifically smartphones, have arguably surpassed the importance of pliers to the daily farmer attire. The tool has yet to tightly wire a gate, but it wields the power to access everything from local

weather to global agriculture markets at our sometimes-soiled fingertips.

Grandpa, who farmed with literal horsepower in childhood, never imagined a handheld device could text and email business partners and display instant radar images, yet functions as a flashlight. Remotely, we can control the grain dryer and monitor the solar array’s energy production. Apps on the device deliver field-by-field rainfall totals, timely agriculture podcasts and virtual farm teleconferences. Smartphones grant rural families the conveniences any modern American families employ, such as online shopping, restaurant pickup orders, voice-guided navigation and live virtual access to anything allowed.

From the bleachers at a home basketball game, my daughter and I watched a calf’s birth via live video footage from barn cameras at the home farm. We found true delight in witnessing the little heifer stand within 30 minutes and gallop about the straw

in another 10.

The Smartphone provides our camera, calendar and calculator. It replaced the dinner bell for summoning family members from the barnyard and, quite precisely, can track their location out in the fields. It provides a hotpot for homework, a device to fill downtime and an app to identify constellations on a starry summer night.

The future likely will bring more exciting conveniences and practical uses, but for now, a key function on our farm remains conversation, both business and social. The same phone that calls the local grain elevator to market corn also orders the Sunday night pizza. It texts a question about production records and reaches relatives seldom seen when planting season peaks, assuming no one plants the device and needs a replacement.

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

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MRS. KAPER'S CLASSROOM



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY AG IN THE CLASSROOM

TELL YOUR FAVORITE TEACHERS

Thursday, March 25 @ 4:00

Preview of

Summer Ag Institute 2021

June 8-10

Contact Sarah
for more information:
sarah@ccfarmbureau.com



SPRING LESSONS

EARTH DAY SEED BOMBS

Students learn about the importance of flowering plants to our pollinators and make a seed bomb with IL wildflower seeds.



SENSATIONAL SOIL



Being good stewards of our soil is the key. Students test a soil sample from their own backyard!

AG AT THE MOVIES

We are heading back to the theaters! What part of the movie experience came from the farm? Students find out!



Whether you are crop, range, or forestland, the quick and dirty way to test your soil health is by "planting" a pair of new, cotton underwear in the site you're curious about. Wait at least 60 days, then dig them back up. The more the undies deteriorate, the healthier the soil.



DIRECTIONS:

1. Plant a pair of new, cotton underwear horizontally about 3 inches deep in the site you are curious about.
2. Mark the spot so you don't forget where you planted.
3. Wait at least 60 days to give the microbes time to do their "magic".
4. Dig the undies back up and send a picture to me!



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CHALLENGE

SOIL MY
UNDIES

Illinois
AGRICULTURE
in the Classroom



Connect with me!
sarah@ccfarmbureau.com



Mrs. Kaper's
Classroom



Champaign County
Ag in the Classroom



Congratulations!

CCFB Foundation Selects 2021-2022 Scholarship Recipients

Lindsey Aden

Agribusiness & Political Science
University of Georgia

Gracyn Allen

Agriculture & Consumer Economics
University of Illinois

Josie Amerio

Agriculture & Consumer Economics
University of Illinois

Mallory Ames

Agriculture & Consumer Economics
University of Illinois

Noah Benedict

Agricultural & Consumer Economics
University of Illinois

Sara Bohlen

Agriculture Business
Illinois State University

Heidi Brya

Animal Sciences
University of Illinois

Emma Carmien

Agriculture Business
Western Illinois University

Jada Davis

Crop Sciences
University of Illinois

Lindsey Decker

Animal Science & Industries
Kansas State University

William Delaney

Agriculture & Consumer Economics
University of Illinois

Jacob Felsman

Crop Sciences
University of Illinois

Shannon Flavin

ACES Undeclared
University of Illinois

Kia Freese

Agribusiness
Illinois State University

Sophia Hortin

Ag Leadership Education & Com
University of Illinois

Ainsley Jessup

Food Science
Mississippi State University

Erica Johnson

Ag Communications
University of Illinois

Riley Knott

Graduate Student
University of Illinois

Makayla Learned

Animal Sciences
Danville Area Comm College

Emily Lopez

Animal Sciences
Colorado State University

Ryan Miller

Technical Systems Management
University of Illinois

Cole Mohr

Agriculture Law
Southern Illinois University

Amelia Nelson

Plant Sciences or Crop Sciences
School Undecided

Bailey Parks-Moore

Ag & Consumer Econ - Public Policy
University of Illinois

Allison Place

Crop Sciences
University of Illinois

Michael Sage

Technical Systems Management
University of Illinois

Felicity Schaffer

Horticulture
Purdue University

Abby Schluter

Agriculture Communications
University of Illinois

Carlee Scott

Environmental Science
Iowa State University

William Shook

Agriculture & Consumer Economics
Parkland Pathways to Illinois

Tessa Smith

Agriculture Business Management
Parkland College

Delaney Smith

Animal Science
University of Illinois

Alayna Stalter

Veterinary Technical
Murray State University

Rachel Wilson

Crop Science
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www.CCFBFoundation.com



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Five Myths About Financial Professionals

33% of Americans say the pandemic negatively affected their finances*

Posted in Financial Wellness at www.countryfinancial.com

by Michelle Lefebvre

If the Coronavirus pandemic had a negative impact on your finances, you may be wondering about your options. You could work with a financial professional to get back on track or try to deal with it on your own. To help you make the right decision, we're busting five common myths about working with a financial professional.

1. I'm not wealthy enough.

No matter how much stuff you have or how much (or how little) money is in the bank, you worked hard to get it. That's why it makes sense to talk to someone about protecting what you've got, even if you don't think you don't need a financial professional. You know why? Because you deserve it!

2. My financial situation is too basic.

Everyone needs to start somewhere, which is why it's smart to seek out financial wisdom even if you think your current money matters are pretty simple. Just like a set of building blocks, you can start with what you have and add to your collection as you go. This can help you develop good financial habits that evolve as your life changes.

3. I can put it off a few more years.

No matter what the goal is, there's rarely a good reason to wait. Of course, we'd all like to start on that diet NEXT week, but you'll reach your goal weight faster if you start watching what you eat now. Paying attention to your income and spending is a good habit to start tomorrow – I mean today!

4. I need to be in a better financial position.

It's kind of like cleaning your home before the cleaning person comes over. There's no need to be embarrassed about your situation or hide the facts. An experienced financial professional has seen it all, doesn't judge and can help you clean up any potential messes.

5. Financial professionals are just looking out for themselves.

Most have a sincere desire to help people and it's why they got into the business. Whether that's looking at your budget, protecting what matters now or looking forward to the next stage of life, financial professionals can help YOU.

Not comfortable talking about finances?

That's totally normal. Seriously. Some people grew up not talking about money, while others feel awkward when the subject comes up. Or maybe you don't feel like you can trust someone with this deeply personal information.

No matter what questions or concerns you have, this is a great time to start building a relationship with a financial professional. COUNTRY Financial representatives are all about you – and are committed to walking alongside you throughout your financial journey.



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Nate Lovekamp
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Dawn Babb
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Andrew Deedrich
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KORY KRAUS,
GENERAL MANAGER

From The Field

by Dr. Howard Brown

Is it time to worry about applied N? Anhydrous ammonia applied when the soils were cold or cooling down last fall (early-to-mid November) will likely still be there, predominantly in the stable ammonium-N form. Once the soils warm up, soil microbial activity will soon convert stable ammonium-N to nitrate-N through a process called nitrification. Nitrogen in the nitrate-N form is vulnerable to denitrification (loss in warm saturated soils) or through leaching (movement with water).

Ammonium-N is considered a stable form of N for two reasons. Ammonium-N is an ion that carries a positive charge (NH4+). 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. N that remains in the ammonium-N form cannot be lost by denitrification (in saturated soils). Anhydrous ammonia applied last fall with N-Serve or Centuro should have a greater percent of ammonium-N remaining yet this spring, minimizing potential loss as the soils warm up and become saturated with the early spring rains. Based upon data collected with Nu-TRACKER Plus, most of the fall-applied N with nitrification inhibitors added will be converted to nitrate-N by early May.

The value of using a nitrification inhibitor within the next few weeks will depend upon the weather following the N application. If a prolonged wet growing season is anticipated following the N application, nitrification inhibitors will provide a level of confidence that there will be N for uptake close to tassel emergence (rapid N uptake). 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.

How can N loss be predicted? Regardless of the form of N applied, warm, saturated soils enhance a significant daily loss of nitrate-N (Table 1). The soil needs to be warm since denitrification, like nitrification, is a microbially driven process. Cold soil temperatures minimize microbial activity and will likely limit denitrification even where the soils are flooded or saturated for several days. Once the soils warm up and remain saturated over a period of days, N loss will be significant and real. Want to estimate plant-available N in the upper profile? Visit www.nuTRACKERplus.com and register a site or visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialists and learn more about the Illini FS N Management Tool. It works.

Table 1. Loss of Nitrate-N from Saturated Soils

Soil Temperature	Percent Loss/Day	Lbs N Lost/Day (200 lbs N as NO ₃ -N)
≤55° F	1 -2%	2 – 4 lbs
55°F – 65°F	2 – 3%	4 – 6 lbs
> 65°	4 – 5%	8 – 10 lbs

Source: R. Hoeft. Predicting and Measuring Nitrogen Loss, *The Bulletin*, University of Illinois, 2004.
<http://bulletin.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?id=103>

Would you use a nitrification inhibitor this Spring? I would use N-Serve or Centuro this Spring in poorly drained soils that have a history of remaining wet for extended periods of time. I would not use N-Serve in well drained silt or clay loam soils. If the Spring is wet the investment will likely pay dividends. If the Spring is moderately dry with incremental 1/2 to 1-inch rains or less the return-on-investment in the same fields will be questionable at best.

Will NBPT (Agrotain or ANVOL) applied to incorporated urea slow down nitrification? No. NBPT is a urease inhibitor. It is used on urea to slow down volatilization of surface-applied urea or urea-containing fertilizers. If the urea is incorporated within 48 hours the risk of significant N loss by volatilization is minimized (no NBPT needed). Volatilization inhibitors have no activity on nitrifying bacteria.

Would you surface-apply urea treated with a nitrification inhibitor? I would surface-apply urea treated with a nitrification inhibitor only if I were certain of a significant rain event (3/4”) within 48 hours of the application or the urea was to be mechanically incorporated within the same period-of-time. Nitrification inhibitors have no effect on urea-N volatilization. Although some surface-applied nitrification inhibitors may be protected from breakdown by encapsulation for up to 10 days (Instinct), significant volatilization of urea-N can occur during this same period-of-time. Although some products and/or fertilizers (ATS) claim to serve as volatilization inhibitors, there ability to inhibit volatilization is inconsistent at best. Tough to prove or disprove N loss by volatilization unless significant losses occur. Want to try? Consider Nu-TRACKER Plus to estimate soil plant-available N (www.nutrackerplus.com).

Pre-plant N application for soybeans (following corn). This is the year to test soybean response to pre-plant N, especially in an early planted field. The lack of residual profile N following the 2020 corn crop and the cool soil temperatures will likely limit available residual N. Although soybean plants have a symbiotic relationship with soil N-fixing bacteria, N is not provided to the plant until about two weeks after emergence. Young soybean plants rely on residual soil N until active microbial N fixation begins. Consider an application 100 pounds of ammonium sulfate (AMS) as an On-Farm Discovery Project (split field or blocks). Using 100 pounds of AMS will provide the soybean crop with both 21 pounds of plant-available nitrogen and 24 pounds of plant-available sulfur. Although a soybean growth response is anticipated, a consistent increase in harvest yield may not occur, the reason this should be an On-Farm Discovery Project in 2021.

Boron is the nutrient to test in 2021. Nu-TRACKER Plus results the past two growing seasons, coupled with On-Farm Discovery Trials, suggest there will be a possible yield response to boron, whether corn or soybeans. Keep in mind that boron has the most-narrow range between deficiency and toxicity of any plant-essential nutrient. Too much boron can have a negative effect on harvest yield. Exposure to germinating seeds may result in reduced stands. An easy way to test for boron response is to make a broadcast application preplant with herbicides or with a broadcast application of dry fertilizer. Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist about a systems approach to boron use.

It would be unfortunate to do everything right; use a high-yielding hybrid, protect the seed and seedling growth from pathogens and insects with seed treatments, manage N as a system with multiple applications, and plant at an aggressive population for high yield, only to end up with disappointing yields caused by plants dying prematurely due to leaf disease. It is not too early to book your fungicide orders for application later in the season. Protect the investment made for a good 2021 crop by making fungicides a part of your Crop Management System. Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist before the planting season is in full swing. Once planting starts it will be sometime in June before plant health is a primary consideration. Make fungicide use a planned, proactive part of crop management, not an unplanned reactive decision when all applicators are booked for several days.

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 is exposed to free ammonia, plant injury or death will likely occur. Make applications at a significant angle to the direction of planting. Utilize guidance systems to place the planted row close to the application of anhydrous ammonia. Limited research out of Purdue suggests a positive crop response when a knifed N application is oriented within a few inches of the planted row, but not on top of the row. Note: Avoid anhydrous ammonia applications close to the planted row in coarse-textured soils. Migration of free ammonia may occur over greater distances jeopardizing the viability of the seed or seedling.

We as an organization have introduced legislation (HB 290) to continue to benefit biodiesel and soybean farmers in the long run. Trade - 60% of the soybeans grown in the state are shipped out of the state and into the international market. Having every opportunity to get soybeans into as many countries as possible with minimal grain damage is an ongoing battle. Climate change and carbon credits - This is a newer area, but one that the new administration will prioritize and a high-stakes issue for farmers. There is a relatively new phrase going around that really applies here: “It is better to be at the table than on the table.” We need to demonstrate the real science behind these issues and how agriculture can be part of the solution. Transportation - Again, because 60% of our soybeans get exported/transported out of our state each year, one of our competitive advantages has been our reliable transportation system. Most of these exported beans end up on the Mississippi and or Illinois Rivers. A lot of the locks and dams were built in the 1930’s with a 50-year life span. One doesn’t need a calculator to see we are living on borrowed time in this area. Everyone wants to talk about upgrading infrastructures, but how they get funded is the perpetual challenge.”

Steve Stierwalt has been volunteering his time and talents with the Soil & Water Conservation District for the past 20 plus years. Steve began his work on the local Champaign County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors, spent four years on the National Association of Conservation Districts Board of Directors, and in February 2021 was elected to a two year term on the National As-

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
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Steve Stierwalt

sociation’s Executive Board. Steve’s interest in conservation began at a young age when, “the tenant farm I grew up on was owned by a lawyer from New York. The landowner’s goal was to leave the farm better than when he got it. We would plant alfalfa and other cover crops. This sparked my interest in conservation when I was only 5 or 6 years old.”

The new administration in Washington, DC is making an impact on the current agriculture issues facing farmers today. Steve says, “There is a real emphasis on conservation. All levels of government and industry are looking at how to get involved in making a difference. Locally, our S.T.A.R Initiative provides an avenue for farmers to get involved in conservations efforts in a way that makes sense to farmers.”

According to Steve, S.T.A.R. (Saving Tomorrow’s Agriculture Resources) is a free tool for farmers developed in Champaign County, and has gained support from the National Association of Conservation Districts spreading into a program in 4 different states with interest continuing to grow. The CCSWCD websites states, “The purpose of S.T.A.R. is to motivate those making cropping decisions to use conservation management practices that will ultimately meet the goals of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. To meet those goals for the agriculture sector, farmer’s need to reduce the nitrogen and phosphorus losses by applying nitrogen when the plants need it and by preventing soil losses by reducing tillage. The S.T.A.R. evaluation system assigns points for each cropping, tillage, nutrient application and soil conservation activity used on individual fields.”

Steve proudly points out, “the Star Initiative takes local people and draws on local science experts to help identify areas of concern, best practices, and to help farmers reach goals. It is important to note 10% of the fields signed up in the program are verified and this is very important to government and industry.”

Steve has been involved in the Soil & Water Conservation Districts at the local, state, and national levels and the one thing he would ask all farmers to do is to try a new conservation technique saying, “S.T.A.R. has a whole suite of practices to choose from. Pick one that fits your own operation. All conservation is local.”



Dirk Rice

Champaign County farmer and volunteer **Dirk Rice** has tirelessly volunteered for the Illinois Corn Marketing Board (ICMB) since 2013 and is the current ICMB Chairman for 2020-2021.

Dirk and the ICMB Board have corn as priority #1 including developing new markets and expanding existing markets. As Dirk says, “There are several great agriculture organizations in the state, ICMB is focused on selling corn, improving the price of corn.” As the issue of Climate Change jumps to the forefront, Dirk suggests farmers be willing to experiment with some new efforts saying, “Think no till or cover crops. We need to get our feet wet now so we are ready when it becomes critical.”

Working with the ICMB has been extremely rewarding for Dirk. During his time on the board he has learned more about markets, international markets, and ethanol than anywhere else. “I am constantly challenged from working on corn issues to investing Checkoff dollars. I cover Champaign, Vermilion, Ford, and Iroquois Counties. It is no small time commitment, but it is a great way to get involved and influence farm policy.”



John Reifsteck

John Reifsteck began his long-time volunteer career on the Illini FS Board. In the early 1980’s he joined the GROWMARK Board of Directors and is currently the Chairman/President of the Board. John says his time with the GROWMARK system has provided him with “great opportuni-

ties to influence agriculture and to see beyond the farm gate. I have a behind the scenes view of how products get to the farm and move away from the farm.”

One of the biggest challenges GROWMARK faced over the past year has been COVID 19. GROWMARK moves a large amount of products each day with John saying, “We had to ensure we were resilient in the face of the growing pandemic.”

According to John, GROWMARK is looking forward to the future of farming, “We try to find a way to bring value to farmers. Maybe it’s through information technology and an app on a phone, but we are always looking for ways to bring efficiency to the system, hold costs down, and be more productive.”

GROWMARK and all organizations are constantly looking for smart volunteers who are willing to invest their time and talents in agriculture. John stresses, “It is up to us to make sure it worth the volunteer’s time and effort. We want to help them learn what’s going on in the world and provide them with worthwhile experiences One thing all farmers must do is to stay engaged. When I was a young farmer I think more issues were focused around what was happening locally, in the Midwest, and in the U.S. Today’s farmers are dealing with issues that are happening all over the world. It is absolutely critical to be involved!”

Simple actions can be taken by each and every Champaign County farmer to make a difference! All five local leaders interviewed encouraged involvement by farmers through Calls to Action and reaching out to elected officials. Doug Schroeder, ISA, says, “Numbers matter and they do count how many people are reaching out on these issues.”

Agriculture is at the heart of each organization and they are always looking for engaged, passionate volunteers to help make a difference. You might be asked to give your time and talents! These organizations prepare volunteers with educational opportunities and experiences that support agriculture. Take a chance, step out of your comfort zone, and simply say YES if asked to make a difference.

WOMEN’S COMMITTEE RECIPE
OF THE MONTH
Submitted by Sara Hiser

This recipe is from my grandmother Etta Alsip.

Peach Crumble

Ingredients

- 1 (no. 2) can sliced peaches (drained and reserve juice)
- 6 T. flour
- Dash nutmeg
- 3 tsp. butter
- 1/4 C. sugar
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon

Arrange sliced peaches in shallow baking dish. Add 1/4 cup of the juice. Mix 6 T. flour, 1/4 C. sugar, dash of nutmeg, 1/4 tsp. cinnamon and 3 tsp. chilled butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over top of peaches. Bake in moderate oven 30 minutes. Apricots may be used in place of peaches.

2021 Champaign County Farm Bureau

April & May Trips/Tours

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



August 12, 2021 (Thursday evening)

A Grand Old Country Tribute, The Barn III - Goodfield, IL

This is a trip that will take you to the “Opry” with the greatest classic hits from the biggest stars of country and western music! Each decade’s biggest hits will be represented, from all of your favorite stars: Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton, Willie Nelson, Kenny Rogers, Tammy Wynette, Reba McEntire, Garth Brooks and more!

Price per person: \$ – \$88.00 per person - Gratuity included in price

Deadline to register or cancel reservations is – July 5, 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.



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- Applications due May 15
- Interviews are conducted in late spring
- Loan proceeds are dispersed in August

Apply today at www.ilfb.org/IVET!



Nathan Montgomery from Salt & Light presenting to the Women's Committee at their March meeting. The non-profit organization is a relational ministry that invites our community to show support by shopping in their stores, volunteering time, and donating goods and finances. Because of that support, our at-risk community members gain access to food clothing, and household goods.



CCFB Prime Timers Committee is enjoying a program by WYXY Classic 99.1 Gale Cunningham!