

Youth Get Back in the Ring

Local, state, and national livestock shows are back in full swing this summer after last year's cancellations due to COVID-19. Several local Champaign County kids have spent their summer months walking through these show rings. Raising and showing livestock takes time, energy, and a lot of dedication. The CCFB is proud to highlight the local kids that are making a name in the livestock show industry.



Ellie Klein

Ellie Klein, 14, has been showing livestock since she was 6 years old. Ellie tells us, "Two of my Simmental show heifers come from our neighbor Art Farley, another Simmental from Adcock Land & Livestock, and 1 shorthorn I raised from one of my previous show cows.

To prepare for a show, I rinse my heifers daily, wash them a couple times a week, practice walking and setting up their feet, and put show sheen in their hair to make it grow. I will spend at least a couple hours a day so they will get to know what it's like being around people for a show.

My schedule during show day is pretty busy. I wake up 2-3 hours before the show starts, wash, dry, feed, and let the heifers lay down before the show. Then when it's close to my turn to show, I blow them off and brush them, and put on a special

leather halter. To get myself ready, I have my mom or sister do my hair, I put on my "show" jeans, shirt, belt, and boots.

Every show I feel different. At the smaller shows I am excited and at bigger shows I get nervous and excited. I have learned that you have to work hard and put forth the effort in order to succeed and win."



The Huls Family – Morgan (12 years old) & Madison (10 years old)

Madison and Morgan Huls have been showing livestock at the fair since Madison was 4 years old and Morgan was 6 years old. This year Madison and Morgan bought their steers privately from three of their dad's friends.

Madison and Morgan gave us a sneak peek into their daily routine with their animals saying, "To prepare for a show we start working with our steers when we buy them usually in October. During the summer months we usually get our steers in the barn at 6 a.m. and let them out at 10 p.m. We probably spend 4-5 hours most days washing, brushing, blow drying, and practicing showing. On the day of the show we wash the cows, then blow dry them and lastly feed them. After they eat my dad fits and clips them until they are pretty and then we show them."

According to both girls valuable life lessons are learned while working with livestock, "You usually get back whatever you put in and hard work pays off. Showing is fun, but getting to become best friends with an animal is very special, even if it is only for a year."

Brady and Dylan Craig both joined 4-H at the age of 8, but have been actively working with the family's sheep since they were very little.



Dylan and Brady Craig

Brady Craig says, "I show the breed of sheep called Corriedales. We have 50-60 in our flock. Corriedales are a dual-purpose breed used for their meat and their high-quality wool. This is the breed that my family has shown the last 30 plus years.

90% of the Corriedales we raise. We typically try to buy one outstanding female every year. This year, that was a fall ewe lamb from Minnesota.

To prepare for a show my dad, stepmom and brother trim the sheep. Typically, it is my job to keep them watered, fed and walk them. Most shows can take all day but all breeds show one after another so sometimes first thing in the morning and sometimes late at night. I wear a bright orange shirt to let people know that I am from the Craigs. My dad has used orange and blue as our family colors because he went to the U of I. As for the animals we keep them covered with blankets to keep them clean so we have to take those off, pick straw off, clean their noses and fluff their wool.

During a show I do get nervous for the picking of Champions and Supremes. I get excited when we win a class or place well. I have learned that I have responsibilities for my animals. If I don't water them, nobody else is and they need water just like I do. Other life lessons are that I get to meet and make new friends from all over the US. The best thing about showing is being able to help my friends and keeping busy during the summer."

Dylan Craig is following in the family footsteps helping his family and brother show since he was 4 or 5.

According to Dylan, "It was my job to hold the ribbons and banners. I show a

breed of sheep that are called Natural Colors. Natural Colors are unique as they can be any breed as long as they are 35-45% colored grey, black or brown. I wanted a different breed other than Corriedales so I didn't have to compete against my brother. We bought our first Natural Colored four years ago.

We have had Natural Colors for a couple years and we had 7 ewes have babies this year. I will be showing four sheep that I raised this year and 5 that I bought last year or this year.

To prepare for a show I sometimes help my dad and stepmom fit them. It will take 2-3 hours to get one sheep show ready. I help wash legs, curry comb and card. I am getting better at trimming. Like my brother we wear a matching shirt so people know that we are together. I like to wear black to match the sheep. Most times we tie each sheep up 30 minutes before each show to get them up and get them calmed down.

I get excited and nervous at shows! I am nervous during the Supreme Drive and Showmanship. I get excited when we win or we place well.

Some life lessons I have learned are hard work pays off, keep your friends close to you, and take responsibility for your actions. The best part about showing is the competition! I also enjoy making friends from all over the world."



Faith Benedict

Faith Benedict has been showing Hereford heifers for five years, but her family has had Herefords for 5 generations. She says, "My heifer Haley was born at Benedict Herefords, so I get to show her as a

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Broadband Access And Affordability

The Champaign County Farm Bureau remains committed to improving broadband access and affordability in Champaign County. Our efforts started in the Fall of 2020 with a survey sent in partnership with Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) that asked our membership about their current home internet status and what you anticipated as your future needs. The data collected by that survey has been invaluable and has jump-started our efforts to find real solutions for this challenging problem.

Since last Fall we as an organization have taken a number of steps towards improved broadband. We started by meeting with several providers to evaluate their current efforts and to discuss potential ways that fast, reliable broadband could be brought to the rural areas of the county. We have also been working with local internet start-up companies and other non-traditional broadband providers to find novel ideas and technology that might help bridge the connectivity gap.

Most recently, the CCFB has been diligently lobbying the Champaign County Board to encourage them to dedicate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for rural broadband issues. We are asking the county to set aside \$15 million of these one-time

funds to incentivize the growth of broadband infrastructure in rural areas of the county. The county is in the process of hiring a consultant with expertise in broadband infrastructure and is forming a task force to tackle this issue. The CCFB does have a seat on this task force to ensure that the needs of rural citizens of Champaign County are being addressed.

Broadband access in rural areas is not an easy thing to solve. We will not be able to provide fast, reliable, and affordable broadband to everyone in the county tomorrow, but we do believe that progress is being and will continue to be made in this important area.

June Report



Paul Hunsinger, CCFB Presid

President, Paul Hunsinger

Hope you are all having a great summer so far. It sure has been flying by. I know most of us have had more than adequate rainfall and in some areas some pretty good flooding. The crops that aren't drowned out however seem to be looking really good this year.

Last month I talked about the Federal Clean Waters Regulations being re-evaluated by the Biden Administration. Talks have definitely begun and Illinois Farm Bureau feels like there could be a lot of overreach in power with these new revisions. IFB will definitely need members to speak out to help protect our land rights. If you haven't already please sign up for FB ACT. IFB will send you the action requests when the time is right so that our voice can be heard on this issue and many others. Sign up online or text "FARM" to 52886.

Sincerely, Paul Hunsinger

VETERANS: Mark your Calendars for Monday, Nov. 8th

Our CCFB Women's Committee is planning a tribute for all Farm Bureau veterans including active duty military and reservists, as well as your spouses. We are hosting breakfast and a program at 8AM on that date. Our desire is to recognize your service to our country and celebrate Veteran's Day.

We are planning a panel forum highlighting the memories of representatives of each branch of our military. We also plan to have other interesting guests. If you would like to be included as a panel speaker, please contact Marilyn Whalen at 217-369-3309 (email: mtk@illinois.edu) or Paulette Brock at 217-493-9712 (email: lp9712@juno.com)

Watch for additional details in the coming newsletters and register for the event by calling the Farm Bureau at 217-352-5235

CCFB Calendar of Events

August 2021

August 8	Member Picnic	3 -7 p.m.
August 9	Women's Committee	9:30 a.m.
August 12	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
August 17	Governmental Affairs	7:30 a.m.
August 19	Full Board	6:30 p.m.

ccfb Virtual Meetings are posted at www.ccfarmbureau.com.

- Check in with Jeff Blue, Champaign Co. Highway Engineer and find out where all those orange construction cones are going to be this spring and summer!
- Mahomet Aquifer Update
- Dr. Trent Ford, Illinois State Climatoloigst
- National Agricultural Statistics Service Update
- Raghela Scavuzzo discusses farm diversification and niche marketing opportunities.
- Illinois Farm Bureau President Rich Guebert discusses priorities for the IAA Board in 2021.

Prime Timers Meeting

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED by AUGUST 9

Call the CCFB Office 217-352-5235

Meeting Date: August 12th @ 10 a.m.
Program & Entertainment: Ozzie Pearl
Meal cost: \$8 per person
Important changes

- Lunch will consist of a box lunch.
- Fully vaccinated people are no longer required to wear masks.
 - No walk-ins.
 - Call to reserve your spot.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

August 9th - General Mtg 9:30 a.m.

Depart for Janie's Mill in Ashkum from FB - 10:30am

Lunch - Tour Mill - Return to Champaign

September 13th

Tour I & I Museum, Lunch at the I & I Clubhouse

Return to Champaign

October - NO MEETING



Women's Committee Donations

The Champaign County Women's Committee donated nearly 400 items to the Cunningham Children's Home (CCH) as part of their first-ever collection drive. After hearing about the work of CCH from Brooke Buzard, a guest speaker at a scheduled Women's Committee meeting, in just 36 days, with the help of committee members and other Farm Bureau members, we were able to collectmultiple needed items. Among those items pictured are towel and wash cloth sets, twin size bedsheet sets, slide sandals, t-shirts, socks, sweatpants, toiletries and more, all from Cunningham's wish list.

We appreciate each of you who participated. With your support and generosity, we exceeded our goal of supporting the young people at Cunningham Children's Home in Urbana.

Donating to help kids is a selfless act that will bless the lives of so many. It is a meaningful symbol of love and hope.

Pictured L to R: WC members: Karen Reitmeier, Paulette Brock, Marilyn Whalen; Brooke Buzard, Associate Director of Advance with Cunningham Children's Home; WC members: Diane Lecher, Elizabeth Rothermel, Sandra Chesnut.

SPOTS AVAILABLE- CALL TODAY

Champaign County Farm Bureau Trips & Tours

October 21 - Goodfield, IL • December 15 - Goodfield, IL

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.

CCFB Trips & Tours FAQ's

- 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.

Farm/Field Name:

Township:

• Gratuity not included in the price unless indicated

October 21, 2021 (Thursday evening)

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

This new comedy flirts with a topical theme: the aging of the Baby Boomer generation. Three couples who all raised their kids on the same street have found a way to keep in touch after they move to new cities. Each year, on Labor Day weekend, the friends vacation together. This year, the ladies have planned a little surprise: a healthy, all – natural weekend at a trendy health resort, complete with organic



food and exercise. The men, who really come for the beer and snacks, are not pleased when they find out. Tensions escalate into an all-out battle of the sexes, and the cabin is divided, literally, into the men against the women. They battle over health food, exercise, pizza, The Godfather, rock and roll, hot tubs, hot flashes, tummy tucks and their refusal to become middle-aged!

Price per person: \$107.00 per person - Gratuity included in price Deadline to register or cancel reservations is - **September 17, 2021**

December 15, 2021, (Wednesday evening)

A Christmas to Remember, The Barn III - Goodfield, IL

It's a Wonderful Life or Miracle on 34th Street? Can we even call it Christmas without the Grinch or the Griswalds? Spend some time this season savoring the best the Barn has to offer in song, dance and skit as we walk you through our own renditions of the season's most memorable cinematic

moments on stage. Featuring music and comedy performances that will get you in the holiday spirit!

Acreage:

County:

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

Section:

Deadline to register or cancel reservations is – November 8, 2021

Think Fall Farm Safety

Farm families are beginning to get ready for harvest. Carle Center for Rural Health and Farm Safety has some valuable resource to help keep farmers and their families on the road to safety this fall. Please take time to visit www.carle.org/farmsafety and scroll through the resources available. One quick, simple way to make your farm safer is to download the Farm Property Direction Form. Carle encourages you to "Simply complete written directions to all properties of your farm operation, especially fields with no known address. Armed with this, first responders can find you quickly in an emergency.

Create one map for each of your properties. You can use a plat book, gazetteer or hand draw your map. Be sure to add a star for each field or property.

Print multiple copies.

Place them in binders and distribute them to prime locations where they might be needed (combine, grain bin site, repair truck, home base location, etc.)"

FarmWeek Now.com	
2	RFD RADIO NETWORK®
FarmWeek NowLoom	CLICK. FARMWEEKNOW.COM
FarmWeek	READ. FARMWEEK®
	WATCH. NOW WITH MORE VIDEO
FARM BUREAU. Farm. Family. Food."	Your timely and reliable sources for the latest in Illinois ag news, weather and markets.

Local Intersection	n:	
	se place a red star over the property.	
Directions from t	he main farm:	
Directions from responding town:		
Point of Reference: (if property is on or adjoining a home, provide the name of the owner and their address)		
GPS Coordinates	:	
	Enter name of Farm/Business here	





THURSDAY, AUGUST 5TH

Register today and reserve your preferred tee time!

University of Illinois Orange Course Savoy, IL

\$100/Player - \$300 Tee Sponsorship

Register Online: www.CCFBFoundation.com

CONTESTS & GAMES W/ PRIZES THEMED HOLES W/ BEVERAGES "PAR-TEE PASS"

Special Play Pass w/Mulligans
AWARDS, PRIZES & BEVERAGES AT CONCLUSION
TWO PRIZE DIVISIONS



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Have you always wondered what it would be like to rappel down the side of a building like a superhero?

Here's your chance!

Join us at "OVER THE EDGE for Agriculture"!

Benefiting Scholarships and Ag in the Classroom



Urban Rapelling Event & Street Party! - Sept 23rd & 24th

Hendrick House - 904 W. Green St. - Urbana, IL 61801

Thursday - Sept 23rd: Set Up / VIP Day

Friday - Sept 24th: Rapelling Event & Street Party

Food - "Touch a Tractor" - "Ag"tivities - Come Watch!

\$1,000 Fundraising Goal to Rappel - Incentives to Maximize your Experience Get sponsors and donations from friends, family, and co-workers to meet your goal!

Are you CHICKEN? You can still participate and sit in the Chicken Coop!

Fun and Unique Ways to Participate as a Team or Group - Company Sponsorships Available

For More Info on Being an "Edger "or Becoming a Sponsor:

www.ccfbfoundation.com/OTEag



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Tips for Empty Nesters

by Rick Halberg

Within a span of five days, my wife and I went from having a house filled with three teenagers to being full-fledged empty nesters. After we moved our 18-year-old triplets to three different colleges in three different Illinois cities, we were feeling more than a little melancholy, as I'm sure most parents do when they come home to a quiet house.

Don't worry. If you're like me, your thoughts will eventually turn from loneliness to lower water bills, food costs cut in half and relaxing evenings at home.

Even though a little worry is inevitable, here are a few things that helped me prepare to be an empty nester:

Times have changed since you left home.

Your child will most likely not have to face many of the same challenges you had at 18. A smart phone and GPS go a long way towards putting a parent's mind at ease.

Spend a little time making sure they're prepared.

Can your kid do their own laundry? Can they cook a meal for themselves? Have they paid bills? A few lessons can help your 18-year-old (and you) feel more confident.

Home is only a phone call away.

Staying in touch is so much easier today. Be sure to keep the lines of communication open, whether it's via text, email, chat or other means. As old-fashioned as it may sound, send them something in the mail. It's still a great feeling to find something from home in their mailbox.

Remember having a life before kids?

This can be a great opportunity to get back to some of the things you enjoyed before you became a parent. Get together with friends, take a painting class, or perform in local theatre. Or if you're like me, play more guitar.

Sending kids to college is another step we take as we go through life. As with every step we take, a little preparation now can make a big difference down the road.



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KORY KRAUS, **GENERAL MANAGER**

From The Field

by Dr. Howard Brown

Corn Plant Development. After the silks have turned brown, the corn kernels begin a period of rapid dry matter accumulation or seed fill. The kernels are approximately 85% moisture and this percentage will gradually decline from now until harvest. At this stage of development, the corn plant has satisfied over 85% of its potassium needs,75% of its nitrogen and 60% of phosphorus requirements. Visit http:// cropphysiology.cropsci.illinois.edu/documents/BenderHaegele2013NutrUptakeBetterCrops.pdf for more information about corn nutrient uptake at different growth stages.

Corn plants now begin to translocate nutrients form the vegetative parts of the plant to the reproductive parts. Total root mass has also reached its peak and will decline. New root growth will continue, but the death of old roots will exceed new growth. The developing ear will now become the sink for sugar accumulation.

Unfilled ear tips are commonly the result of dry weather, cloudy days after pollination, nitrogen shortage, insect feeding or excessive plant populations. As the ears dry down the tips shrink and become

Short, late-pollinating corn plants are usually the outcome of early-season disease, insect feeding, uneven emergence, and a generally poor environment for early root growth are just a few of the likely causes. Any early season injury to the young seedling's primary root system or food reserves (endosperm) may have resulted in a re-focus on the young, developing roots for survival rather than on normal overall development. Silks may emerge late on these small plants resulting in incomplete pollination and/or increased silk clipping pressure from local insect populations (fresh silks are attractive to silk-clipping insects).Late or replanted corn will be attractive tosilk-clipping insects, such as corn rootworm and Japanese beetles. Plan to scout these fields for silk clipping.

Hybrids differ in the time it takes to reach harvestable moisture from black layer. An estimate is that 30 Growing Degree Units (GDUs) are needed to lower the grain moisture each point from 30% to 25%, and 45 GDUs per moisture point to dry from 25% to 20%.

The interaction between stage of kernel development and crop stress plays a critical role in yield determination. Stress during various stages will affect grain yield as noted below:

- Blister (R2) 40 to 50 days to maturity: Kernels are nearly all yellow and contain a milky-white fluid. This is the "roasting ear" stage. Severe stress can still abort kernels as well as reduce
- Dough (R4) 30 to 36 days to maturity: Continued starch accumulation is giving the kernels' inner fluid a pasty consistency. Kernel abortion is not very likely, but severe stress can have a dramatic impact on test weight.
- Dent (R5) 20 to 27 days to maturity: All or nearly all kernels are dented. The milk line slowly progresses to the kernel tip over the next three weeks. Kernel moisture at the beginning of the R5 stage is approximately 55%. When the kernel reaches ½ milk line, it will be roughly 40% moisture, 14 days from black layer, and have attained about 95% of its maximum yield. Stress at this stage can still reduce kernel weight but not kernel number.
- Maturity (R6): the black layer has formed, and kernels have attained their maximum dry weight. Kernel moisture is roughly 30 to 35%. Stress at this point will not reduce final yield unless the stress results in physical grain loss (ear drop or severe stalk rot).

Soybean seed set is affected by temperature. Seed set is most consistent when warm nights (70° F) are followed by warm days (at least 80° F). Night temperatures of 60° F or below and daytime temperatures of 95° F or above will harm seed set. The ideal daytime temperature for soybeans is around 86° F.

Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) may soon appear in area soybean fields. Sudden Death Syndrome infection takes place shortly after soybeans emerge. Wet soil conditions appear to promote the development of SDS during the infection phase, environmental conditions like what we experienced earlier this cropping season. Following infection, the fungus starts to grow into the plant's vascular tissue, eventually affecting the soybeans plant's ability to move water and nutrients. Infected plants will first show mottled yellow and brown leaves while the veins remain green. Later, the leaves fall from the plants leaving only the green stems with leaf petioles attached. There is no resistance or rescue treatment available for this disease. Avoiding plant stress and selection of varieties that tend to withstand disease pressure better are two ways to minimize the symptoms of SDS. Visit with your local Illini FS Crop Specialist for more information about SDS tolerance.

Firing of a corn plant indicates plant roots cannot supply enough nitrogen for grain fill, whether it be from an inadequate supply of available nitrogen or from a restricted root system caused by soil compaction,

early wet weather, and/or insect root feeding. The plant cannibalizes itself by translocating nitrogen from the older leaf tissue and stalk to the developing ear to compensate for the lack of soil N. Extensive movement of nutrients out of the leaves and stalk soon after pollination may result in lower stalk quality at harvest (increases probability of stalk rots).

A nitrogen deficiency will appear as an inverted yellow "V" that moves down the midrib of the leaf (Figure 1). Since the nutrient is moved out of the older tissues first, it is initially found in the lower leaves.

Leaf diseases are favored by hot, humid **conditions.** Corn fields that have received adequate rainfall and have high levels of crop residue, especially corn following corn, are likely to be the first to show signs of disease pressure. The threat of yield loss due to leaf disease is greatest when the pathogen develops at or above the ear leaf within two weeks of pollination. Standability is more often affected than yield because the plant must draw sugar reserves form the stalk when leaf tissue has been killed, rather than relying on the leaf to produce sugars.

Gray Leaf Spot lesions have been identified on the lower leaves in several corn fields (Figure 2). This fungal disease appears as small, rectangular, grayish-tan lesions about ½ to 1 inch in length running parallel with leaf veins. The disease over winters on old corn residue and infects the lower leaves first, spreading upward with ideal disease conditions. Disease development is favored by extended periods of leaf wetness from rainfall, heavy dews and/or fog lingering in the morning hours. The most economical approach to minimizing harvest yield loss because of the disease is through crop rotation, hybrid selection and/or a timely fungicide application.



Figure 1. Typical N deficiency expressed as yellowing in a "V" pattern down the midrib. Lower leaves express N deficiency first, since the nutrient is remobilized from older to developing tissue.



Figure 2. Gray Leaf Spot Lesions appearing on a leaf below the ear shoot. The growing environment has favored development of fungal leaf pathogens, such as Gray Leaf Spot.

a significant number of lesions above the ear should be monitored for standability as harvest approaches. Hybrids differ in their ability to resist various leaf diseases. Contact your local Illini FS Crop Specialist for information that will help select hybrids for the 2021 growing season. Keep a watchful eye on two-spotted spider mite populations as a drier August arrives (Figure

Significant loss of leaf area prior to physiological maturity may promote stalk rots. Fields with

3). Hot, dry weather provides a favorable environment for mite survival. Most infestations will first appear along fence rows or ditches. Infested plants take on a sand blasted appearance. Heavy infestations are most easily found by shaking the plant over a sheet of paper. Watch the paper for tiny moving specks. An insecticide treatment is justified if injury is noticeable and the mites are present.

Scouting for light infestations of spider mites may be difficult when using the "knock onto paper" method of scouting. A hand lens with a magnification of 10x or more will allow close examination of the underside of soybean leaves. This



Figure 3. Two-spotted Spider Mite.

permits the discovery of light adult spider mite infestations along with identification of young mites and unhatched eggs. Mite eggs appear as small, solitary specks, sometimes suspended within spider webbing on the leaf's underside. The eggs are perfectly round and appear transparent.

Soybean Plant Development. The soybean plant is now giving more emphasis to reproductive growth than to vegetative growth. Pod development and elongation are rapid. Pods will obtain most of their full size before soybean development begins. Flowering on the upper part of the plant will continue until the plant reaches its full height.

Watch for pod feeding insects on the developing pods. Bean leaf beetles, grasshoppers, and green stink bugs are some of the pests that feed on soybean pods.

Bean leaf beetles come in many colors (Figure 4). The easiest way to identify this soybean pest is by the black triangle directly behind the insect's head. Regardless of the color or the presence or absence of spots, all bean leaf beetles have this black triangle.

The next generation of bean leaf beetles will soon emerge in area soybean fields. Treatment is suggested when:

- Bloom to Pod Fill: Defoliation reaches 20% and there are 16 beetles per foot
- Seed Maturation: When 10% of pods are 10 or more beetles per foot of row



damaged, leaves are green, and there are Figure 4. Bean Leaf Beetles feeding on soybean leaf. Photo by John Obermeyer

Continue to scout alfalfa fields for potato leafhoppers. Remember to scout all fields even though some may have been treated earlier this growing season.

Plan now for late-summer alfalfa seedlings. The optimum time to fall seed alfalfa is sometime in August. This should allow time for good stand establishment and should improve winter survival. Consider the following tips:

- Soil Test. The optimum soil pH is 6.5 to 7.0.
- Seed at 15 to 18 pounds per acre for pure stands.
- Avoid re-establishing alfalfa in a field with an existing stand that is over one growing season old. Destroy old stands and rotate to another crop for one growing season.
- Apply P and K fertilizer according to soil tests.
- Prepare a good seedbed (firm and level).
- Consider herbicide carryover potential. Alfalfa seedlings are especially sensitive to triazine herbicides

Illini FS hosted three interns this summer. Here is a brief background for each and a description of their summer projects. We are very proud of our future ag leaders and are thankful we could play a small role with their professional development.



BRADY GADDIS

Rankin, IL

4-Year Degree: Ag Science/Ag Business at Murray State, KY (in-progress) Brady's project focused on making variable rate nutrient applications based upon field appearance from aerial imagery. Fields were identified to have nutrient deficiencies based upon topography or an application error. The deficiencies were confirmed using Nu-TRACKER Plus. Vegetation was colorized using NDVI aerial imagery and variable rate scripts were generated based upon color across the field. Nutrients were applied using the variable rate map generated. Brady's project will help develop effectivenutrient applications based upon plant

need or field position, minimizing the use of unneeded crop inputs. It's all about M.O.M. (Minimizing environmental impact by Optimizing harvest yield and Maximizing input utilization).



DOMANIQUE RICHARDSON

Estherville, IA

4-Year Degree: Ag Business at Iowa State University, Ames IA (in progress) Domanique accepted the challenge of developing a better way to market the value of Nu-TRACKER Plus to area producers. Her project included modifications of the current host website and development of mailers that have embedded easy-to-use links connecting the reader to the Nu-TRACKER Plus website. Domanique's project with introduce new producers to the value of tracking plant-available nutrients with Nu-TRACKER Plus during the growing season. It's all about Maximizing input utilization... truly a focus on M.O.M.



Lexington, IL

4-Year Degree: Crop Agribusiness at University of Illinois (in-progress) Sophie spent the summer working with On-Farm Discovery and ways to promote the tool's use. She segmented the tool into threephases: hand application, field stamp, and split-field trials. She developed a brochure that will help other GROWMARK crop specialists promote the tool among their customers. Sophie's project will help improve harvest yield by utilizing inputs/practices that make an economic difference... a focus on farm profitability... truly focused on M.O.M.



Maggi's Membership Corner

By Maggi Maxstadt, CCFB Membership & Outreach Coordinator

Welcome to August Farm Bureau members! This past month has had me thinking a lot about member engagement. Along with the rest of the Champaign Farm Bureau staff, I have been keeping busy coordinating events, meetings, and communications for our members. We are trying to engage and communicate with all of our members through different channels.

Towards the end of July, we hosted Toolshed meetings, our second Burger Bash, a Board event, and more! At one point, there were six different registration forms for Brenda and me to keep track of!



Late in the month is a member meeting with COUNTRY Financial. August 2nd saw a Farm Bill Work session, and early August is our first Member Appreciation Picnic, which I touched on last month. A full report from the picnic will be available in our September newsletter.

As voting members of the Champaign Farm Bureau, if you want to stay updated on events and meetings as they happen, ask to join our weekly email list! This email comes out each Monday and covers the happenings of CCFB and any news about agriculture in Illinois.

We want to thank those of you who attended any Champaign Farm Bureau events this year, whether in person or virtually. We are glad to have you as a member and hope to see you at an event soon!

P.S. Don't forget to pick up any peaches you ordered on August 11th after 10:30 a.m.!





CCFB's first Burger Bash was held in June at Mark Jones' farm

Soil Your Undies Challenge Results

The Soil Your Undies project was a success. Participants all over the county buried clean undies early in the spring and dug them up 60 or so days later only to find shreds! The microbes in the soil did their job eating through the natural cotton fibers. So in a healthy soil where the soil biology is diverse and active, all they got back was the elastic waistband, shreds of cotton that hadn't yet degraded, and the poly-cotton stitching. The bacteria and the fungi in the soil got to work on that cotton fiber, broken it down and consumed them.

To bring the challenge to students in the county, clean undies went out with the educators who attended the 2021 Summer Ag Institute. Teachers were encouraged to bury the undies with their class and have Mrs. Kaper come to teach a lesson on soil health. "If we can stimulate an interest in them at a young age and encourage that curiosity with a simple pair of underwear, then hopefully, we can see changes in the way that they behave towards our soils as they grow up."



Chris Hausman and grandson Archie on his Pesotum farm.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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Lyle Brock and great nephew, George Lee-Drozt, digging up the underwear and checking out the shreds-buried on Easter, dug up on 6/16.



Dale Franzen working with Farm Week Now out on his farm in Rantoul



Cory and Hayden Mitchell digging up undies in the backyard of their subdivision in Mahomet

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bred and owned heifer and an owned heifer! I actually got to show Haley's sister, Grace last year too!" Faith took some time to give us a snapshot of her daily routine and her routine on the day of the show, "We rinse our heifers twice a day, brush them after each rinse and blow them out. We also like to show stick when it is cool in the evening to get them used to it. We work hair really well at the end of the night too. In total, I probably work on my brother and I's heifers around 4 or 5 hours a day.

On the day of the show we wash first thing in the morning, then brush and blow out. After that, we feed to make sure they look as full as they can for the show. We want them to lie down for an hour and then we start fitting. My favorite thing to fit right now is the tails! I also make sure I am wearing my best jeans and show shirt, and think about what I need to do while in the ring and to look at the judge. Sometimes. I like to give my heifer a pep talk. I get excited because I work hard at home, and the best part about having cows is actually being able to show them!

I have learned that when you work, or do anything, you need to put your best effort into it! If you don't do it right the first time, then you have to make time to do it again."



CCFB Hosts Elected Officials Tour









Wheat Harvest

CCFB's May Newsletter featured Past CCFB President Chuck Ehler and his work restoring a Caterpillar RD4. July brought about a chance for Chuck and several area farmers to come together to harvest wheat in Champaign County using the equipment they have spent time restoring.



Chuck Ehler's Holt Combined Harvester Model 34 unloading grain into a wagon pulled by the RD4.



Joe Hunsinger is busy working with Chuck Ehler's restored John Deere 35.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Renee Potter

"Extra" Sloppy Joes

"Better wear an apron to make or eat!! (Not really)"

Ingredients

- 1 ½ pounds extra lean ground beef
- ½ onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 green pepper, diced
- 2 cups water, divided
- ³/₄ cup ketchup
- 1 dash Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons salt, or to taste
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
 1 pinch cayenne pepper to taste

Directions

- 1. Heat a large skillet over medium heat. Cook ground beef and chopped onion until the beef is no longer pink and is crumbled, about 10 minutes.
- 2. Add the garlic and bell pepper and cook for about 3 minutes, until softened. Add 1 cup of water and stir, scraping all of the brown bits from the bottom of the skillet.
- 3. Add in ketchup, brown sugar, Worcestershire sauce, Dijon mustard, salt, and black pepper. Add 1 more cup water, stir to combine, and bring the mixture to a simmer. Reduce heat to low and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the mixture thickens and moisture is removed. Season with salt, black pepper, and cayenne pepper to taste and serve immediately.

