

FFA Is Up And Running In Urbana



Urbana FFA meeting new people and learning about other chapters.



Urbana FFA Officers and members ready to experience their first National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

Good news coming from the students of the Urbana High School FFA the chapter has been revived and is 18 members strong! According to Advisor Daniel Doeing, it is just getting off the ground but great strides have been made, “Our chapter used to be fairly active about 10 years ago, but with some changes in advisors and school offerings, they did not have any agricultural education programs during the 2019-2020 school year and then hired me to restart the program for 2020-2021 while we were virtual learning. We’re still getting it up and running in many

aspects, trying to get students to understand what our program offers them, finding community partners to help re-establish and support our members, and

creating an Alumni Chapter (or Friends of the FFA program), which allows community members to play a role in program offerings, community service projects, scholarships available for students as well as providing

their expertise or resources when it comes to training contest teams or judging some of our local career development events or SAE project experiences.”

Continue FFA page 8

Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 110th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau is called for Thursday, January 20th, 2022 at the Champaign County Farm Bureau, 801 N. Country Fair Dr, Champaign, IL.

The business meeting will begin at 6 p.m. for the purpose of consideration of any business which may be properly presented.

Directors from the following townships will be elected:

- Compromise
- Ludlow
- Newcomb
- Philo
- Raymond
- Sadorus
- St. Joseph
- Scott
- Somer

Minutes of the 2021 CCFB Annual Meeting will be printed in the December edition of the CCFB newsletter.

Please fill out the information for the Proxy below and return by **Jan. 6th, 2022** to:
Champaign Co. Farm Bureau
801 N. Country Fair Dr.
Champaign, IL 61821

PROXY KNOWN ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENT THAT

_____ (name of member) of _____ (address)

a voting member of the Champaign County Farm Bureau, a corporation organized under the law of Illinois, does hereby appoint and constitute Benjamin Rice of Sidney, Illinois, or failing him, Jason Watson of Villa Grove, Illinois, their true and lawful attorney to attend the annual meeting of the members of the Champaign County Farm Bureau to be held in the Champaign County Farm Bureau Building, Champaign, Illinois on the 20th day of January, 2022 and any and all adjustments thereof, and to vote for this member as its proxy and representative, the one vote which the member would be entitled to cast if actually present, upon any and all things competent to said member, as may in their judgement be necessary or advantageous for all interests of this corporation

Member Name: _____

Member Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

This proxy can also be filled out electronically at
<https://form.jotform.com/champaignCFB/ccfb-annual-meeting-proxy>

January Report

President, Paul Hunsinger



Paul Hunsinger, CCFB President

Hope everyone had a good Christmas and is having a great start to the New Year!

Back at the beginning of December, Champaign County sent delegates up to the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting to represent us. Champaign County delegates were able to meet with key legislators in our district and adopted district and had very good conversations. Overall, it was a good weekend and Champaign County was represented very well.

We have a lot planned for the coming year and I look forward to helping Champaign County continue to keep the voice of Agriculture heard.

Sincerely,
Paul Hunsinger

**Prime Timers –
NO January 2022 Meeting
Meetings will resume
February 2022
Please call the office with any
questions
217-352-5235**

**Save the Date
Rules for the Road
2/24/2022 @ 8 a.m.....Champaign
More details to come!**

CCFB Calendar of Events JANUARY 2022

- **January 10 Women's Committee 9:30 a.m.**
- **January 18 Governmental Affairs 7:30 a.m.**
- **January 20 Full Board 6:30 p.m.**

Women's Committee December Meeting Wrap Up

Karen Pickard from the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen spoke to the Women's Committee on December 13th. The Daily Bread Soup Kitchen provides meals for those with food insecurity in Champaign County. Their dining room has been closed since March 2020 with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, about 325 nutritious hot meals and a sack lunch are distributed out of the front door 7 days a week. The Daily Bread Soup Kitchen operates entirely on volunteer staff. They are funded by local grants and donations with food being purchased through the Eastern Illinois Food Bank. In addition, many area businesses donate food, while El Toro and Arby's each provide meals one day a month.

Members of the Women's Committee donated \$340 that as explained by Karen will feed 680.

You can learn more about the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen at <https://daily-breadsoupkitchen.com/>



During the Christmas season, the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen also distributes a knapsack containing personal items and items such as a hat, scarf, gloves, socks a treat and a fun item. Most of the items have been donated from residents of the community.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

January 10th – General Meeting
*featured speaker, John Brown,
Public Guardian for Champaign County*

**Lunch following at
Original Pancake House, Champaign**

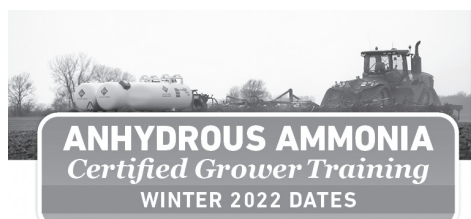
**Apply Now
Application Period**

**JANUARY 1-
FEBRUARY 15**

**IAA Foundation
Scholarship
Program**



IAAFoundation.org



**FREE In-person Training
Register at ILFB.ORG/NH3**

Please contact Jenny Eisenbeis at 309-557-3207 with any questions.



**TRAINING STARTS AT 1:00 PM
AT ALL LOCATIONS**

FEB. 21ST
ASMARK INSTITUTE
AGRICENTER,
BLOOMINGTON

FEB. 22ND
UNIQUE SUITES,
CHARLESTON

FEB. 23RD
THE PAVILION, MARION

FEB. 25TH
EFFINGHAM EVENTS
CENTER, EFFINGHAM

MARCH 1ST
MENDOTA CIVIC CENTER,
MENDOTA

MARCH 2ND
KNOX AGRI CENTER,
GALESBURG

MARCH 3RD
HOLIDAY INN, QUINCY

MARCH 4TH
POE'S CATERING,
SPRINGFIELD

MARCH 14TH
ASMARK INSTITUTE
AGRICENTER,
BLOOMINGTON

Maggi's Membership Corner

By Maggi Maxstadt, CCFB Membership & Outreach Coordinator

Happy New Year, Farm Bureau members! After looking back at what we accomplished in 2021, I'm excited to see what the new year has in store.

For those of you, who joined to be eligible for Illini FS Patronage, please review the letter Kory Kraus wrote on page 5. He shares the status of Illini FS and Patronage payments.

We are starting the year with the Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in late January. Our annual meeting is a business meeting focused on electing township directors, summarizing the events from the previous year, and approving minutes from the previous annual meeting.

Remember to fill out and return your proxy form to the office by January 6th, found on page 1. Make your vote count!

We would showcase and celebrate CCFB's accomplishments at the Annual Meeting in past years. The celebrations now happen at our Membership Appreciation Picnic in the summer. Check back when we announce the details!

As CCFB staff plans the 2022 calendar, we want to include more member-centered events, like Burger Bash and PM opportunities. We hope to engage with you and see you at an event in the new year. Take care, members!



Yields Are Great!! Come See What The Women's Committee Is "Planting" For 2022!

A message from your Chair and Co-Chair, Marilyn Whalen and Paulette Brock

The Champaign County Farm Bureau Women's Committee invites you to join us on Monday, January 10th and the 2nd Monday of every month thereafter, at 9:30a.m. in the Champaign County Farm Bureau auditorium.

We are women dedicated to promoting, educating, and informing consumers and their children about the importance of agriculture in the food, fiber and fuel that enables them to live strong, productive lives. We participate in programs and events that promote a positive image of agriculture. These activities also provide opportunities for leadership, communication, political involvement, and networking. Telling the story of agriculture in a factual and engaging manner is an ongoing effort of the Champaign County Women's Committee.

Each month we enjoy hearing from stimulating presenters on a variety of topics or touring venues of interest. Some highlights planned for 2022 include:

- John Brown, Public Guardian for Champaign County
- AtHome with Clark Lindsey, Home Health Care
- Tour Virginia Theatre – downtown Champaign
- Kristina Adams-Smith, Sliced Right Nutrition
- Champaign County Forest Preserve
- Tour U of IL Tomato Processing Plant & IL Sustainable Student Farm
- Vickey Welsey, Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- Tour Illinois Bakehouse

Following our monthly meetings, members gather for lunch to continue socializing and build friendships.

The Women's committee provides funding for scholarships, and engages in charitable projects throughout the community. We assist with outreach programs, such as internet workshops, defensive driving, while also promoting community awareness.

We welcome women of all ages who are interested in agriculture to join the Champaign County Farm Bureau Women's Committee. Please contact the Farm Bureau office at 217-352-5235 or phone Marilyn Whalen, Chair at 217-369-3309 for additional information.

Champaign County Farm Bureau Broadband Update

By Brad Uken, CCFB Manager

Over eighteen months ago the Champaign County Farm Bureau began to engage with stakeholders about the critical need for better broadband service throughout the county. The CCFB Board of Directors created the CCFB Broadband Committee to explore the opportunities and challenges surrounding broadband in the county. This initiative included a survey of you, our members and the quality and availability of broadband in your areas. Utilizing the resources of Illinois Farm Bureau and through engagement with local school districts and other community organizations we were able to better understand the need for high-speed and reliable internet service throughout the county.

So, what exactly did we learn from the survey? The data supported what everyone already suspected, there are places in Champaign County that have inadequate internet service. We found that you, our members, need better service to connect the farm, have kids attend school remotely, work from home, or simply be able to stream the latest Netflix show. While each of you are willing to pay for good service, it needs to be reliable and it needs to be affordable.

In March of this year Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA. American Rescue Plan Act funding was distributed to all municipalities across the country, including individual counties. In 2021, Champaign County received half of their allotted \$40.8 million. The other half of the funding should be transferred to the county in 2022. It is very clear in the ARPA guidelines that these funding dollars can be used to improve broadband infrastructure in underserved areas. Since early this year, the CCFB has been in continuous contact with the county about dedicating a portion of the ARPA funds to address broadband needs in the county. This Fall, the county approved \$3 million to be set aside for broadband in 2022. Overall, the county is considering setting aside a total of \$7.5 million.

One of the first steps the county took to examine the challenges and opportunities for better and more affordable service was to establish a Broadband Task Force. The ten-person Broadband Task Force began meeting in the Fall of 2021 and is chaired by CCFB Manager, Bradley Uken. Additionally, the county has contracted a consultant to develop a comprehensive broadband status report. Their report is anticipated to be completed in March 2022. The hope is that the report will lay out options for the county to move forward with over the next several years addressing the most critical broadband needs around the county.

One action that you can take to help the Broadband Task Force is by completing a survey designed by the consultant to give us another look at the needs around the county. The survey is quick and easy. There are two surveys the consultant is asking residents to complete, the speed test and then the appropriate survey for your residence or your business. Please take just a few minutes to complete these surveys.

Residential: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SMG9VBY>

Business: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SFN5KFKQ>

Speed Test: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S36BKS8>

The goal going forward is to have a comprehensive plan to build out the broadband infrastructure needed to ensure that every resident of Champaign County has access to high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband internet. This plan will allow the county to leverage existing dollars to match funding from other state and local sources. There are hundreds of millions of dollars that are being allocated by the state and federal governments to address this issue nationwide. Broadband accessibility is often compared to the rural electrification that families saw in the 1930's and early 40's with FDR.

The dollars that the federal and state governments are dedicating to this effort are a once in a lifetime opportunity that we must take advantage of. We must seek to level the playing field with the service that our urban neighbors have. We must not settle for what we think is sufficient today but we must develop a plan that will meet our needs for future decades. Funding opportunities like this will not come around again in our lifetimes.

As we move through 2022 the CCFB will continue to share updates about the progress that is being made on the issue of broadband.



Farm Bureau Trips and Tours visited The Barn II in Goodfield, IL. Pictured left to right - Owner and producer- Abby Reel, Debbie Graham, Randy Graham, Lois Wood, Paul Curtis.

Feeding our Future.
Fueling our Industry.

CCFBOFOUNDATION.COM

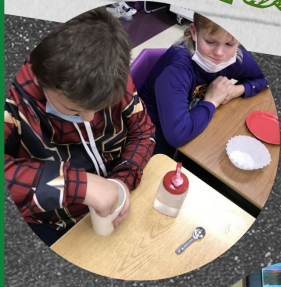
f /CCFBOFOUNDATION

t /CCFB_FOUNDATION



Ag in the Classroom

AITC Honor Roll
Where we have been...



New Book for Winter

An after-dark journey out to the barn, even on the coldest winter evening, can be a warm and welcoming scene. Who is awake, who is asleep, and who is just making their first appearance in the barn?

Michelle Houts' lyrical poetry paired with Jen's glowing watercolors create a warm and wonderful bedtime story-best shared together.

SCAN TO FIND OUT: ordering information, a read aloud video, and story information.



Ag Leader Feature Sheet

Last month we had a Farmer Feature--this month we are looking for information from those of you are not farmers but work in any number of careers in agriculture. We want to share what you do with the students of Champaign County.

1. Name/age:
2. Where are you from?
3. Did you grow up on a farm?
4. What is your career/connection to agriculture?
5. What do you like best about your career?
6. What is your favorite snack?
7. What was your favorite subject in school?
8. What do you like to do in your spare time?

NEW



• Send me a selfie
• Email your answers to Sarah



Connect with me!

sarah@ccfarmbureau.com



Mrs. Kaper's Classroom



Champaign County
Ag in the Classroom

UPCOMING

EVENTS

April 1, 2022

Over the Edge Cu
Hendrick House - Urbana, IL

June 17, 2022

CCFB Foundation Annual Gala
Pear Tree Estate - Champaign, IL

August 4, 2022

Golf FORE Ag
UI Golf Course - Champaign, IL

Over the Edge
Champaign-Urbana

Join Us!

Friday - April 1, 2022

Hendrick House
904 W. Green - Urbana, IL



It's NEW and it's BOLD!
It's OVER THE EDGE CRAZY!

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

Here's your chance! Don't Miss It!

Spots are limited so don't wait!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Extremely Safe - No Experience Necessary
No Age Limitations - Must Weigh 100-300 lbs
Individual or Team Participation



www.OverTheEdgeCU.com

Scholarship applications are open!

Deadline
Jan 31st
2022

Encourage your favorite
agriculture student to apply!



CCFBFoundation.com





KORY KRAUS,
GENERAL MANAGER

FROM THE FIELD

by Dr. Howard Brown

Now it is time to reflect on changes to consider. Make time to refresh or change some of the long-term traditional practices or to challenge how decisions are made. Here is a compilation of things to consider as we enter the first growing season of a new decade, 2022.

Nitrogen impacts both the environment and farm economics. It is second only to sediment as an impairment to water resources in Illinois. It is the most critical nutrient input for corn production and is one of the top two input costs. Each year new pattern tiled fields make it easier for unused soil nitrate-N to find its way from the point-of-application to ditches, rivers, lakes, and eventually into the Gulf of Mexico. Off-target movement increases the risk of finding nitrates in drinking water (elevated nitrate-N) and causing eutrophication (accelerated algae growth). Changing management practices to reduce N loss without impacting harvest yield will increase farm profitability by optimizing the investment in N applied (use it, don't lose it). It is all about M.O.M., Minimizing environmental impact by Optimizing harvest yield and Maximizing input utilization. Focus on N management in 2022 to improve farm profitability and environmental quality.

The soil holds several thousand pounds of N. About 95% of the N found in our East-Central Illinois soils is bound organically and is unavailable to the plant for uptake. Only a fraction of the bound N is released annually, depending upon the microbial activity and a process referred to as mineralization (plant-unavailable N to plant-available N). It is assumed that approximately 25 pounds of N can be released as plant-available N for each percent of soil organic matter (cropping season). If the soil has 3% organic matter, approximately 75 pounds of N can be released during the growing season.

Tillage enhances the release of plant-available N (P.A.N.) from soil organic matter. Tillage increases the mineralization of organic matter by providing an environment favorable for microbial activity. A short-term benefit of increased N release means more N becomes available for crop uptake. Unfortunately, the faster plant-available N is released from soil organic matter, the quicker it oxidizes, minimizing soil productivity long-term. If we want the soil to remain a productive natural resource for future generations, now is the time to understand management practices that will maintain its productivity in 2022 and beyond.

Soils release a significant amount of P.A.N. each growing season. Suppose each percent of organic matter can be approximately 25 pounds of plant-available N annually. In that case, soil with 3% organic matter may release as much as 75 pounds of N during the growing season. Unfortunately, it is nearly impossible to estimate or predict how much N is being released since the amount depends on the soil environment and microbial activity, and both are unpredictable each growing season. Mineralization of soil organic N is likely the primary cause of nitrate-N found in subsurface tiles and drainage ditches. Research is starting to focus more on organic N release, especially in fields following soybean production. Research funded by the Nutrient Research and Education Council (Fertilizer Check-Off) is focused on unraveling the science behind the mineralization of organic N and the fate of released inorganic N. Visit www.IllinoisNREC.org for more information about funded research and what we have learned so far.

Apply Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) by removal, not just soil tests. Determining how much phosphorus and potassium to apply is moving toward a removal-based recommendation system. Adding nutrients back to the areas of the field where they were removed by grain makes sense. Areas of the highest yield should receive the highest nutrient applications. Areas of below-expectation harvest are likely yield-limiting due to other growth factors (water, soil type, soil structure, etc.). Adding additional phosphorus and potassium may not have an impact on productivity. Traditional soils tests will remain a part of nutrient management. Still, they will eventually be used to establish a trend up/trend down of P and K availability, not the primary basis for application rates. Traditional soil tests will remain an essential part of nutrient management to determine soils' overall P and K status.

Apply P and K together at a rate relative to plant uptake of the crop just harvested. Nearly all nutrients enter the plant with water by plant transpiration. Transpiration is the process used by plants as a cooling mechanism. Water is pulled from the soil through the plant's xylem by evaporating from the leaf surface, cooling the plant. Over 90% of the water that enters the plant is used for cooling. Water-soluble solutes, such as ortho-phosphate and potassium, are pulled into the plant along with soil water. The concentration of nutrients found in soil water will determine the concentration that will enter the plant.

Making fertilizer applications based on harvest yield within fields makes economic sense. Site-based yield provides the basis for site-based nutrient rate recommendations. The value of the site-based harvested crop provides income to cover the site-based input costs. High-yielding crops generate more revenue to pay for the higher removal rates. Although low-yielding areas will generate less income, fewer nutrients will be recommended based upon fewer nutrients removed.

Grain nutrient removal rates may need further adjustment. On-Farm Discovery work has uncovered that P and K removal rates vary significantly within and by field. Suppose we can lower removal rates, with no overall effect on harvest yield. In that case, we will demonstrate a focus on M.O.M. What we have learned from our 2022 nutrient removal projects and other discovery trials will be shared at upcoming local farmer meetings. Lessons learned from tracking plant-available nutrients during the growing season over the past six years, including how much N was lost in the latter part of June 2022. Are you interested in discovering nutrient removal rates from your field? Visit your local Illini F.S. Crop Specialist to participate in nutrient removal projects for 2023.

Trusted harvest yield mapping is needed for decision-making. The importance of harvest yield data management continues to be emphasized as we enter an era of input management within a field. A wide range of variable rate technologies allows for changing the rate of input application, seeding rate, planter down pressure, and pesticide applications across the field. The primary metric (measure) used to determine a treatment's economic Return-On-Investment (R.O.I.)

is harvest yield maps. Make time to maintain/replace yield monitoring systems on the combine. Give your local Illini F.S. Crop Specialist a call to help with calibrating yield monitors next fall. It is essential to make management decisions on good harvest yield data. Make plans now. The fall of 2022 is not far away.

Sulfur applications continue to support higher crop yields. Over the past two years, many strip trials have resulted in an economic R.O.I. The form of sulfur applied will make a significant difference in crop response. Elemental sulfur is water-insoluble and not plant-available. It is typically ground into a fine powder (to increase surface area) and pressed into pastilles (half-moon-shaped) to be blended with dry fertilizer. It must be oxidized by soil microbes, which won't happen until sometime in June, making it a poor choice if used for the 2022 crop. Sulfate-Sulfur is the ionic form (SO₄-2) taken up by the plant. Common sulfate-Sulfur containing fertilizers include Ammonium Thiosulfate (A.T.S.), Ammonium Sulfate (A.M.S.), Calcium Sulfate (Gypsum), and Micro-Essentials MES-10 (50% elemental S and 50% sulfate-sulfur). Need help with sourcing a sulfate-sulfur fertilizer for 2022? Visit with your local Illini F.S. Crop Specialist. If possible, avoid making applications of any fertilizer to frozen or snow-covered soils unless applications are made to an existing crop, such as dormant cover crops or winter wheat.

It is time to add boron and zinc to the Nutrient Management Plan. N-TRACKER Plus continues to suggest the need for supplemental boron and zinc. On-Farm Discovery Trials confirm the same. Frequently, the concentration of both zinc and boron was below what is considered adequate. Tissue analysis has been a component of N-TRACKER Plus since 2019. The combination of nutrient concentration in the upper soil profile and tissue analysis at V4 and V.T. validate the need to investigate crop response possibilities with both nutrients. Does every farmer need to apply supplemental zinc and boron on every field? No. Should farmers be testing for crop response to these two micronutrients? Yes. Does the form of nutrient applied, and timing of application make a difference? Yes. Visit with your local Illini F.S. Crop Specialist and ask for help with the source, rate, timing, and placement of both boron and zinc in 2022. The rate of boron applied matters. Boron has the shortest range between deficiency and toxicity of any essential nutrient. More IS NOT better. Let Illini F.S. help create your Nutrient Management Plan.

Designate a field for On-Farm Discovery. Although the number of products that claim to improve harvest yield continues to grow, local data showing a consistent response is usually inconsistent or nonexistent. Many products are supported by data collected from across the Midwest. Unfortunately, a field local to Central Iowa may not reasonably estimate a field in East-Central Illinois. Take ownership of determining the value of new products by selecting one of your fields and designating it as a place to test new products or practices in 2022. Technology makes it relatively easy to apply treatments, and your local Illini F.S. Crop Specialist will make it easy to create a trial design and locate the product for treatments. Let your local Illini F.S. Crop Specialist help you track crop response, whether it be scouting for treatment response on the ground or from the air (we have nine licensed pilots with drones). On-Farm Discovery focuses on addressing your questions in your fields, utilizing your data.



Letter from Kory Kraus, General Manager

This past year has proven to be another positive year for Illini FS with strength in our Energy and Agronomy Divisions and a final net income of \$3.45 million (before taxes). As a result, we will be paying a total of \$493,886 patronage to our shareholders, something your cooperative is designed to do, and we are proud to do. We will be paying on the energy and agronomy products listed below. Patronage checks should be in the country very soon.

- Dyed tank wagon gallons only at..... \$0.048/gallon
- Clear tank wagon gallons only at..... \$0.048/gallon
- Chemicals 1% of sales

Over the past fiscal year, we have invested in new fuel trucks, LP trucks, and new tractors along with new application equipment. We are committed to invest in the future of Illini FS.

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

We have tremendous work ahead of us to rebuild confidence in our shareholders once again. I am committed to the growth and continued success of Illini FS in 2022 and beyond. Let us be "your trusted business partner".

Thank you for your business!

Kory Kraus
General Manager



Nathan Hubbard
COUNTRY Financial
Agency Manager



Rhonda Wagner
Administrative Assistant
Champaign Agency



Dan Punkay
328-0023



Bret Kroencke
359-9391



Travis Heath
352-4555



Kolby Jackson
586-5030

A Letter From Nathan Hubbard, Champaign – Vermilion Agency Manager



Keith Garrett
485-3010



Chris Greenwold
355-8675



Jessie DeHaan
352-3466

The Champaign-Vermilion Agency had another successful year in 2021. Although our business has changed as a result of the pandemic, we have adapted by using technology and innovative ideas to move our business forward. The agency achieved all our corporate objectives in 2021 and has been named an All American agency once again, which is the top honor COUNTRY Financial offers. We expect to make 2022 the best year our agency's history.



Dan Duitsman
469-2033



Jordan McDaniel
217-352-9817

Corporately, COUNTRY Financial continues to be the largest farm insurer in Illinois and the fifth largest in the United States with nearly 47,000 farm policies in force.



David Palmer
352-3341

Finally, on behalf of COUNTRY Financial and our local financial representatives, I would like to thank the Champaign County Farm Bureau and COUNTRY Financial clients for their continued support. We look forward to serving you now and in the future.



Terry Hill
469-9800

We wish a safe and healthy 2022 for you and your family.

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



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

Winter Brings Extra Chores For Animal Care

We had only one item on our Black Friday shopping list: a metal poultry fountain. It didn’t satisfy any Christmas wishes, but it was freezing outside, and the chickens needed water, notice, from their drinking water dispenser. The new container’s galvanized metal construction allowed it to rest atop a heated base. We purchased the drinker with a 20% off coupon, and the kids’ laying hens now have thawed water until the last freeze of spring.

Responsibility ranks the primary reason that the kids raise chickens. Since elementary school, they have understood the obligation of having another life depend on them. And no matter the species – cattle, pigs, sheep, goats or chickens – they know that livestock have no regard for homework loads, basketball schedules or holiday weekends. Vacations require hiring a caretaker. Snowy and sub-zero days demand shovels and layers to handle the task. Raining? That’s why we have rubber boots.

Livestock farmers generally dread the weather events that cancel school, such as snow, ice, sub-zero temperatures and especially wind associated with any of those. When winter weather lengthens chore time, I suggest that the kids put life in perspective. Their grandpa manually thawed cattle water tanks with wood-fired cowboy heaters when he was a kid. He helped his dad prepare cab-less tractors for winter with tire chains and heat housers, or a plastic and vinyl liner that captured heat from the engine to warm the driver. And



you had to take breaks inside to regain feeling in your extremities.

Now, energy-free cattle drinkers operate nearly maintenance free and have built-in electric heaters. Heated cabs and four-wheel drive options on tractors make winter chores more efficient and comfortable. Even winter work boots are engineered so well that light-weight summer socks will suffice.

Heavy snowfall today could mean digging paths to cattle, scooping outdoor feed bunks or keeping the electricity on for hog barns to maintain heat and ventilation. Just as the pandemic caused people to stock masks and toilet paper, the record-breaking snows of the 1970s prompted our farm to own a snowmobile and tractor-mounted snowblower, the type that moves 4-foot drifts. I rather hope for calm, quiet nights that keep this piece of equipment in the shed.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and cover crops and raise beef cattle and backyard chickens.

WINTER AGRIBUSINESS SEMINAR – CHAMPAIGN Wednesday, January 19, 2022 @ 11 a.m.

COUNTRY Financial®, Illinois Farm Bureau Keep Farmers Updated on Improved Opportunities to Protect Farm & Crops in 2022

There is always uncertainty around what spring, summer and fall may bring. COUNTRY Financial® and Illinois Farm Bureau remain ready to assist farmers through every season. The organizations are again teaming up for regional meetings across Illinois to share updates on improved opportunities for farmers to protect their farms and crops in 2022.

“Every farm operation is different, and our goal is always to help our farm clients and Farm Bureau members reach their goals together with options and information from a trusted partner,” said Doug Yoder, COUNTRY Financial Crop Agency Manager. “These meetings offer us the opportunity to connect with clients and members prior to the busy planting season, to make sure they have the most up-to-date information about federal crop and hail insurance options, learn about new coverage options from COUNTRY and gain a better un-

derstanding of changes in markets and government that they may need to consider, so they can make informed decisions for their operation.”

Champaign County Farm Bureau will host an in-person meeting on January 19th, 2022. There will also be two virtual presentations on January 25 and February 9. All meetings will include:

- Crop Insurance Update, including changes to federal crop insurance and new private products offered by COUNTRY, the #1 crop hail insurer in Illinois. (Doug Yoder, Crop Agency Manager for COUNTRY Financial)
- Crop Claims Update (COUNTRY Financial Crop Claims Representative)
- Market Outlook (Tim Tresslar, Grain Origination Manager for Growmark)
- Legislative Update (Illinois Farm Bureau)
- Opportunity for Audience Q&A with presenters

Registration is open. To register and reserve a seat, please call the Champaign County Farm Bureau at 217-352-5235. Farm Bureau members can also login at www.myifb.org to register online.

For updates and more information, visit <https://on.ilfb.org/winter-agribusiness-seminars>

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REGISTER TODAY!

**2022 ILLINOIS SPECIALTY
CROP CONFERENCE**

JANUARY 5-7 | HYBRID FORMAT

In-Person Virtual

At-Your-Own Pace

CCFB Delegates Attend IAA Annual Meeting

Delegates for the IAA Annual Meeting in Chicago were: Steve Hammel, Joe Burke, Paulette Brock, Maynard Birkey, Jason Watson, Gerald Henry, & Mark Hortin. Delegates voted on IAA resolutions and policy changes that will impact IFB policy in the next year.



FFA, continued from Page 1

Most of the members of Urbana’s FFA Chapter do not have a background in agriculture but are realizing that there is more to agriculture than meets the eye. Urbana FFA is led by a talented team of officers including President Tommy Wright. Tommy is a senior at Urbana High School and joined FFA because he is very interested in environmental sciences. Tommy experienced his first FFA National Convention this year and says “I was shocked at how many people are in FFA. Some of the things I learned I will take with me forever, seeing the diversity in agriculture and all walks of life was an amazing experience. I hope to continue my agricultural journey into college. Our plans for the Urbana FFA Chapter include getting people interested so it can keep going and letting everyone know kids from urban areas can be involved in agriculture too.” Clara Hazen, Chapter Reporter, also took in her first National Convention, “It was fun to be around a large group of people all interested in FFA.” Clara is a sophomore and not sure where FFA will take her, but is very interested in Forest Conservation. A highlight of her FFA year to date was Urbana FFA taking 4th place in the Section 17 Ag Sales Contest.

Advisor Dan Doeing says, “I have lots of students interested in Veterinary/Animal



Urbana FFA taking in the sights of sounds of the main stage at the National Convention.

Science, but also many students interested in plant sciences and learning more about opportunities available to them through some of our hands-on projects like our High School Garden area, Hydroponics tower, and Greenhouse space.” This includes FFA member Celia Barkley who dedicates time once per week to work in the school’s FFA greenhouse. Celia has a strong interest in plant science, which has been cultivated by her mom, Traci - Director of Sola Gratia Farms. Celia’s goals for the greenhouse include cleaning it out and making it more accessible to other classes so other students have opportunities to learn about plants. Celia shows excitement talking about FFA and the greenhouse, “We attempted to bring melons into the greenhouse and it didn’t work, but it’s fun to try different things. I enjoy FFA and want to go to more FFA events and competitions.”

A lot of varying interests and backgrounds help make Urbana’s FFA chapter full of diverse ideas and goals. Tisa Patel, Chapter

Secretary, has been in the United States for 3 years. Tisa said she joined FFA because, “I grew up on a farm in India where we grew peppers, watermelons, and cauliflower. Living in the city made me realize I missed the farm. FFA provides me with the opportunity to connect with plants and animals again. My favorite part of FFA is learning new and different things. I have been able to go out of my comfort zone! The National Convention brought together different people with different interests, but everything was related to agriculture!”

Being back in school has allowed FFA members to gain a lot of hands-on experience that they missed out on last year due to remote learning. The chapter is actively producing vegetables and herbs in its garden located on school grounds. The produce is shared with other teachers to use in food sciences classes with excess produce being donated to the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen and a local food pantry. Participating in events and competitions has been exciting for the Chapter too. At the National Convention, Urbana FFA was able to connect with FFA members from the Chicago High School for Ag Sciences and make plans for an exchange. Urbana FFA Officers are also planning for an officer retreat to learn more about their roles in FFA. These kids are excited about agriculture and what the future holds!

WOMEN’S COMMITTEE RECIPES OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Juanita Henry and Loretta Stoerger

Cinnamon Salad

Submitted by Juanita Henry

Ingredients

- 1 large can crushed pineapple – drained
- 1/3 cup red hots.

Let the above stand overnight.

Add

- 2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 8 oz container Cool Whip

Mix all together and refrigerate.

Strawberry Tapioca

Submitted by Loretta Stoerger

Ingredients

- 5 cups water
- ¾ t. salt
- ½ cup plus 1 T. pearl tapioca, uncooked
- 1 cup sugar

In a large saucepan, combine water and salt. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Add tapioca; cook for 20 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in sugar and gelatin mix. Pour into a large serving bowl; cover and refrigerate overnight. At serving time, stir gelatin to break up; fold in whipped topping and berries. Makes 12 servings.

- 3 oz pkg. strawberry gelatin mix
- 8 oz container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 2 cups strawberries, hulled and sliced