



Vol. 100, No. 6

801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821

June, 2022



Mahomet Aquifer – A Safe Source of Water

After this very wet spring, the Mahomet aquifer might be the last thing on your mind. The Mahomet aquifer is still the only source of drinking water for Central Illinois supplying 15 counties with groundwater used for human consumption. The vertical and horizontal boundaries of the aquifer generally follow the historic Mahomet Bedrock Valley where it enters Illinois from the Indiana border on the east to the Illinois River on the west.

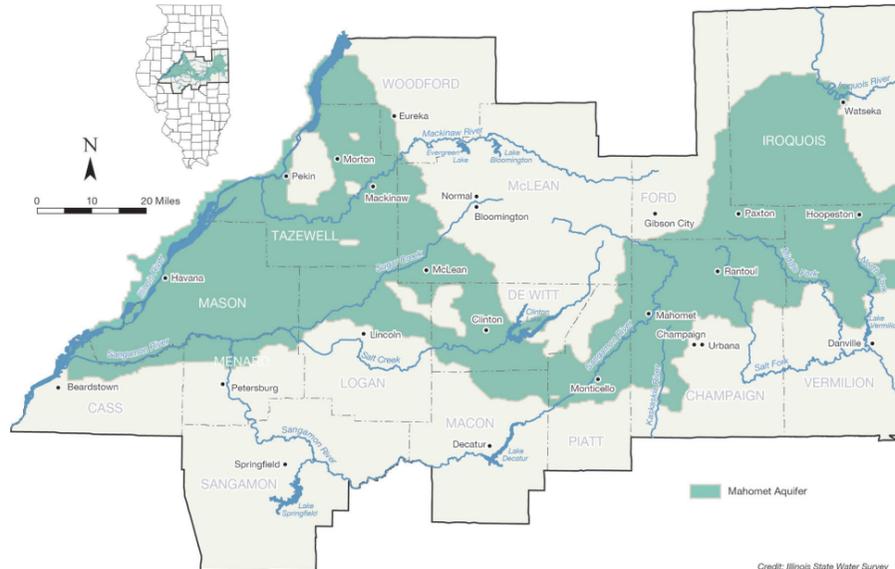
In 2018, the Mahomet Aquifer Protection Task Force released a report that outlined and identified potential threats to the water quality of the aquifer. This report and the data that it contained was an effort to protect this natural resource. Threats highlighted in the 2018 report included:

Underground natural gas storage was a particular focus because in December 2016 a natural gas leak was identified from a Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company underground storage facility in northern Champaign County and within the designated sole-source aquifer boundary for the Mahomet Aquifer

- Abandoned wells
- Legacy landfills
- Nitrate
- Arsenic
- Road salt
- Source water susceptible to contamination
- Household hazardous waste/pharmaceuticals and personal care products

Based on these threats and other factors the 2018 Task Force recommended the following actions including legislative actions, to ensure the long-term protection of the Mahomet Aquifer:

- Provide funding to the Prairie Research Institute (PRI) to use helicopter-based time-domain electromagnetics (HTEM) technology to more accurately map and



Credit: Illinois State Water Survey

characterize the Mahomet Aquifer to aid in identifying the connections with other aquifers and surface waters.

- Use HTEM and other techniques to identify areas where the Mahomet Aquifer is recharged.
- Integrate data collected via HTEM into next-generation groundwater flow models.
- Develop and implement source water protection plans for the community water supplies determined to be susceptible to groundwater contamination.
- Implement the recommendations outlined for each identified threat and potential threat (as detailed in the final report) and provide additional funding to PRI to deploy state-of-the-art monitoring networks and create the analytical capability to identify emerging contaminants of concern.
- Improve education and outreach regarding the Mahomet Aquifer such that all stakeholders are better informed about water resources, water demand, and

water supply planning and management, particularly when plans are made, reviewed, and updated.

- Develop a group with a mission similar to the Mahomet Aquifer Protection Task Force that is a blend of other select individuals that serve in a quasi-government or government capacity to provide leadership, administrative stature, or process for regional water supply.
- Plan cooperative research and data collection, analysis, management, and exchange by academic institutions, units of government, the private sector, and other stakeholders.
- Use the established water supply planning process to review and update regional and local water supply plans at least every five years.
- Ensure comprehensive use reporting by consistently and fully funding the Illinois Water Inventory Program.

The Mahomet Aquifer in 2022 is still a vital source of water for residents in East Central Illinois. What has been happening

over the past four years to learn more about and protect the aquifer? Champaign County Farm Bureau reached out to experts in the field to find out about the current status of the Mahomet Aquifer. Andrew Stumpf, Ph.D., Illinois State Geological Survey/Prairie Research Institute, provided us with a list of several new projects revolving around the Mahomet Aquifer and they are as follows:

1. Champaign County Board provided the ISGS with \$500,000 of ARPA funding to conduct a helicopter-borne time-domain electromagnetic (HTEM) survey over the aquifer in Champaign County. This geophysical technique has been used in North Dakota and California to map aquifers at a high resolution. In addition to the airborne work, the funding will also be used to do additional drilling and surface geophysics to acquire data that will calibrate the modeling based on the HTEM data.
2. The ISGS calibrating with the USGS on their new study of the Illinois River Basin <https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/next-generation-water-observing-system-illinois-river-basin>. This study will include subsurface mapping/modeling over the Mahomet aquifer, including additional HTEM surveys outside Champaign County.
3. ISGS is currently mapping the geology of the Fisher quadrangle in Champaign County for the STATEMAP component of the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program. The products of the study will include a new surficial geology map and cross sections of the geology down to the bedrock, including the Mahomet aquifer.

Continue Mahomet Aquifer, page 2

Champaign County Farm Bureau – Resources at Your Fingertips

As we head into summer, construction season kicks into high gear. Staying aware of any projects coming your way and knowing your rights as a property owner can save you time and money. The Champaign County Farm Bureau (CCFB) wants you to be prepared for possible projects or easements in your area. CCFFB has resources available to landowners to help make informed decisions that will have long term impacts from informational meetings, to connecting you with experts in the field, to pointing you in the direction of specialized attorneys, we are here to help!

When construction comes to your land, several thoughts may enter your mind including how far does the road right of way extend, what will happen if drainage tile gets broken, or what if crops get damaged by these companies? If you are thinking it, so have other farmers and landowners who have been in similar circumstances. Illinois Farm Bureau, in conjunction with the CCFFB, have been working to provide you with information to protect your rights including information on several projects including wind and solar farms, broadband installation projects, and transmission lines.

Bill Bodine, IFB's Director of Business and Regulatory Affairs, deals with issues throughout the year and gives CCFFB members some direction when construction issues arise on their property. Bodine suggests, "The most important thing for members to do if involved in a utility or energy project is to seek the advice of an experienced attorney. Leases and easements are very complicated agreements that include issues that can have long term impacts on their property. They should work with an experienced attorney who can help them negotiate the best possible agreement."

Spring and early summer field activities might still be the first thing on your mind right now but don't put utility construction issues on the backburner. It is best to stay on top of the issues and address the situation right away. The beginning of any project in your area starts with finding out as much as you can about what is about to take place. CCFFB staff and volunteers work closely with Illinois Farm Bureau staff to provide a strong support system for members with questions. If you have questions or concerns about utility construction on your property contact the Champaign County Farm Bureau Manager, Brad Uken, at 217-352-5235.

Continue Wind/Solar Farm Resources, page 3

June Report



Paul Hunsinger, CCFB President

President, Paul Hunsinger

Well May flew right by and amazingly it seems like we got the majority of the crop planted in a short window of time. Hopefully we will be able to finish planting in the next week or two. The crops I've seen that are up so far are looking very good. With the planting season coming to an end we will start having more activities for our membership so keep a close eye out for events planned this summer. I am looking forward to seeing everyone out this summer!

Hope everyone has a safe finish to planting and a great start to summer!.

Sincerely,
Paul Hunsinger

Prime Timers Meeting

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

by June 6

Call the CCFB Office 217-352-5235

Meeting Date: June 9, 2022

Program: Jill Hardesty, President of the Illinois Association of County Fairs

Entertainment: Aubrey Powell

Meal cost: \$8 per person

Important Information

- FRIED CHICKEN BUFFET
- No walk-ins
- Call to reserve your spot

CCFB Calendar of Events June 2022

June 9	Prime Timers	10 a.m.
June 13	Women's Committee	9:30 a.m.
June 16	Full Board	6:30 p.m.
June 21	Governmental Affairs	7:30 a.m.*

Governmental Affairs will now be held on the Tuesday following the Full Board Meeting.

Mahomet Aquifer continued from Page 1

4. Not specifically in Champaign County, but the ISGS is partnering with Purdue University to conduct an experimental study at wind farms in Vermilion and Ford Counties to map the subsurface geology, including the Mahomet aquifer, by using the ambient vibrations from the turbines.

5. The ISGS and ISWS continue to be involved with critical zone research as part of newly-funded Critical Interface Network for Intensively Managed Landscapes (CINet) <https://criticalzone.org/cinet>. This is a follow up to the completed Critical Zone Observatory for Intensively Managed Landscapes (IML-CZO) <https://czo-archive.criticalzone.org/iml/>.

Another expert in the field adding to the conversation is Daniel Hadley, MS, PG, Hydrogeologist, Illinois State Water Survey. Daniel gives us a breakdown of four specific projects focusing on water in east central Illinois listed below:

1. The ISWS sampled 15 Mahomet aquifer monitoring wells in the spring of 2021 for a water quality analysis. Seven of these samples are located in Champaign County. The study is focused on determining areas where surface water and shallow groundwater may be entering the Mahomet aquifer through lenses of overlying sand deposits. Specifically,

tritium was sampled to detect very young water within the aquifer and was detected in several locations. Work is ongoing.

2. The ISWS and IL-American Champaign are still monitoring Mahomet aquifer water levels at many wells in Champaign County. The website below has a list of the wells that have continuous data (both historical and current) <https://www.isws.illinois.edu/groundwater-science/groundwater-monitoring-well-networks/mahomet-aquifer-east>

3. The ISWS will also be partnering with the USGS on their new study of the Illinois River Basin. Specifically, the ISWS will bring their groundwater modeling expertise to the project with our Mahomet Aquifer groundwater flow model.

4. The ISWS will likely receive funding from the USGS to install monitoring equipment at 4 Mahomet wells in DeWitt County. If funding goes through, the ISWS would have a fairly complete coverage of water level monitoring stations for the entire Mahomet aquifer. Installation is expected for fall 2022 and spring 2023.

While these updates and projects are ongoing, citizens of the 15-county area continue to utilize the Mahomet aquifer daily. This water is vital to the survival of our communities. CCFB will strive to provide continued updates on the efforts being made to ensure that this aquifer is a safe source of water for generations to come.

Women's Committee

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

Calendar of Events

June 13 – General Meeting – 9:30 a.m.
Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium



Marilyn Whalen presents gifts received to Amanda Borden Vice President of Development at the Eastern Illinois Food Bank



Members of the Women's Committee excited to exceed their goal for collecting funds for the Eastern Illinois Food Bank

Thank You Farm Bureau Donors! Women's Committee Exceeds Goal For EIFB!

Congratulations to all Farm Bureau members who contributed generously to support our Eastern IL Foodbank charitable drive. Initiated by the Women's Committee, a total of \$1708 was raised for the benefit of families who experience food insecurity.

Our goal, upon beginning the drive, was to create food security for folks needing 3650 meals. Just one dollar provides ten meals. With the multiple donations received, we now can provide a total of 17,080 meals. While 17,080 meals may be hard to comprehend, in terms of human impact, we calculated your gifts will feed 1898 families (family of 3) three meals each day, or 5.2 families for an entire year. We think you are amazing!

Consider this quote from Margaret Cho: "Sometimes when we are generous in small, barely detectable ways it can change someone's life forever."



Check out FarmWeek, FarmWeekNow.com and RFD Radio.

June 6-10

TOPICS INCLUDE:

Ethanol | Livestock | Property rights | Sales tax

CANDIDATES INVITED

Darren Bailey | Paul Schimpf | Richard Irvin
Gary Rabine | Max Solomon
Jesse Sullivan | JB Pritzker | Beverly Miles

Maggi's Membership Corner

By Maggi Maxstadt, CCFB Membership & Outreach Coordinator

Time has been flying by, and we both know summer will be no different!

In May, the summer calendar of events quickly filled up all around the county. Check out our Facebook page, newsletter, and Monday Morning Update emails to keep track of what's going on near you! The Monday Morning Update is a brief email covering about 5 meetings, events,

or articles of interest relevant to the week.

If you don't receive the Monday Morning Update emails, update your communication methods by emailing CCFB@ccfarmbureau.com or visiting myIFB.org.

Mid-May Brad and I attended a membership meeting in Decatur. Held by Illinois Farm Bureau, we learned about member engagement opportu-

nities and what's new for members.

The next trip being offered is Honky Tonk Angels at Beef & Boards in Indianapolis. Spots fill quickly, so join the trip or waitlist. Check out page 8 for the list of trips through the end of the year!

Keep an eye out for peach order forms in July/August. We hope to see you out and about!



Wind/Solar Farm Resources
continued from Page 1

WIND FARM & SOLAR FARM PROJECTS

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU SIGN!

The decision to sign an agreement to participate in a wind farm solar farm requires careful consideration. Both the benefits and the impacts of the wind or solar farm could last for decades and the agreements are very complicated. **The Illinois Farm Bureau can provide landowners who have been approached to participate in a wind or solar farm with detailed information that should be considered before signing any agreement. Landowners should also attend educational meetings held by your County Farm Bureau to learn about what to look for in wind or solar farm leases and how to negotiate a better lease.**

1. Have the agreement reviewed by an attorney who is familiar with wind or solar farm leases.
2. Talk with neighbors about working together with an attorney to spread the costs and improve your ability to negotiate the terms of the agreement.
3. Review the terms of the standard Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) that the wind or solar farm developer is required by law to sign. Consider incorporating the protections of the AIMA into the wind or solar farm agreement for your property. The standard AIMA for a wind farm can

be viewed at bit.ly/AIMAwind. The standard AIMA for a solar farm can be viewed at bit.ly/AIMAsolar.

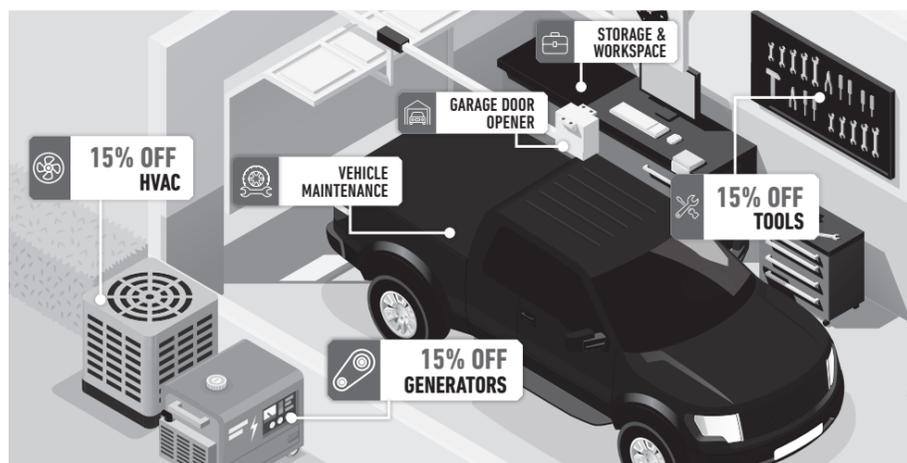
4. Contact your county government to get a copy of the wind or solar farm ordinance for your county and understand the protections the ordinance may provide to landowners involved in the wind or solar farm and those not involved.

5. Carefully consider all your property rights impacted by the proposed farm agreement. Be sure the agreement maintains your right to use and farm your property and that you are compensated for all rights that you transfer to the wind farm/solar farm developer.

These items are only the beginning. Landowners should carefully consider each provision included in a wind farm or solar farm agreement before signing one. Doing so will allow you to make well-educated decisions on whether the wind or solar farm is right for your property and will allow you to negotiate agreements that meet your needs. Please contact your County Farm Bureau for detailed information on issues to consider before signing an agreement to participate in a wind or solar farm or to attend a landowner educational meeting.



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Pollination Fast Facts

- About 75% of all flowering plant species need the help of animals to move their heavy pollen grains from plant to plant for fertilization.
- About 1,000 of all pollinators are vertebrates such as birds, bats, and small mammals.
- Most pollinators (about 200,000 species) are beneficial insects such as flies, beetles, wasps, ants, butterflies, moths, and bees.

Why Are Pollinators Important?

- Pollinators are often keystone species, meaning that they are critical to an ecosystem. The work of pollinators ensures full harvests of crops and contributes to healthy plants everywhere.
- An estimated 1/3 of all foods and beverages is delivered by pollinators.
- In the U.S., pollination produces nearly \$20 billion worth of products annually.



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Don't miss THE social event of the season for Champaign County agriculture!

Join us for an evening of friends...fun...and fabulous food at the beautiful Pear Tree Estate.

Your attendance supports scholarships for student leaders seeking degrees in agriculture and will help provide a free Ag in the Classroom program to 1500+ Champaign County students and their teachers each month.



Our famous dessert auction is always a treat!



Don't wait! Tickets sell out early!



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Live Auction

Watering Hole Raffle

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For More Info:
Shanna@ccfarmbureau.com
217-352-5235



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217-352-4555



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217-586-5030



Keith Garrett
217-485-3010

5 Less Obvious Reasons To Check On Your Insurance Coverage

by Christy McFarland www.countryfinancial.com

An article about insurance? Snooze. We get it. Insurance isn't the flashiest topic, but it's an important one. There are definitely those more obvious reasons to adjust your coverage, like when you buy a new car or move. But what about those less obvious reasons?



Chris Greenwold
217-355-8675

Your teen starts driving

If you have a teen driver in the household, or one on the horizon, you might want to consider checking in on your auto's liability coverage. If your teen gets in an accident and injures someone, the medical bills could be detrimental to your overall financial well-being. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), 16-19 year olds are more likely to get in an auto accident than any other age group. Teenage boys are even more at risk than girls. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 16-19 year old boys were two times more likely to get in an accident than teen girls. Don't wait to check in on your coverage. According to the IIHS, 16-17 year olds are even more likely to be involved in a car accident compared to older teens ages 18 and 19.



Jessie DeHaan
217-352-3466

Backyard magnets

Install a new swimming pool? Get a trampoline or a playground? Did you know you're liable if someone comes onto your property and gets injured? While pools and trampolines might seem harmless, they can be a cause for attraction. There are ways to keep your backyard safe, like installing a fence. You might also want to consider increasing your liability coverage to protect yourself from the unthinkable.



Dan Duitsman
217-469-2033

Working out of your home

Starting a company out of your home might seem innocent enough, but it's important to make sure you have the right coverage. Depending on how your business is set up, you might need to adjust your policy or take out a separate one to protect both your business and your home.



Jordan McDaniel
217-352-9817

Less time in the car

The amount of miles you rack up on your car driving to and from work could impact the cost of your auto policy. If you're jumping up and down because you've recently taken a job with a shorter commute, don't forget to take a break from your celebration to see if it improves the cost of your auto policy.



David Palmer
217-352-3341

Just married or had a baby

These might be some of the more obvious life changes that warrant you to check in on your coverage, but they're so important, we wanted to include them on our list. Both major life changes will likely impact your insurance coverage, especially your home, auto and life insurance. For instance, the policy you took out before you had a baby might not be sufficient now that you've grown your family. It'll be important to make sure your new bundle of joy is protected. Another example is if you purchased a diamond ring. It'll be important to make sure it doesn't exceed the limitations on your homeowners' insurance.



Terry Hill
217-469-9800



Austin Beaty
217-352-0012



Tanna Suits
217-892-4479



Aaron Wheeler
217-586-6170



Scott Jackson
217-359-9335



Dawn Babb
217-892-4479



Andrew Deedrich
217-359-3941



Steve Derry
217-352-2655



**KORY KRAUS,
GENERAL MANAGER**

From The Field

by Dr. Howard Brown

The corn plant's reliance on the newly formed permanent root system is when differences in the soil environmental conditions can be expressed in plant color and growth. The transition from the seed and primary root to the permanent root system occurs at the V3 stage of development (three visible leaves with collars). The above-ground plant's demand for nutrients may exceed the newly formed root system's ability to supply, causing a temporary deficiency. Phosphorus deficiency is commonly expressed first. The subsequent nutrient deficiency to appear is potassium. The difference between the two nutrients is mobility in the soil. While both are considered immobile, phosphorus moves the least while potassium can move a little further, the reason for the delay in the time of expression. Tillage practices, traffic patterns, and differences in nutrient availability are the most common causes of these temporary deficiencies. Once the permanent root system expands and can supply the plant with needed nutrition, differences in plant color usually fade away, and the field turns a dark green color. Suppose color differences remain for an extended period-of-time or there appears to be a significant difference in plant growth (height and leaf stage). In that case, a further investigation into the cause is needed.

Differences in soil supply of plant-available N (P.A.N.) will be very apparent as the plants begin to rely on the recently developed permanent root system (Growth Stage: V3). Areas of concentrated residues from the fall harvest (behind combine), traffic compaction, and places that remained saturated for extended periods (leaching/denitrification) are just some reasons for differences in plant color and growth. Warming soils and sunny days will allow expansion of the new permanent root system, overcoming micro-environmental differences and returning to normal plant color and growth. How uniform the corn stand will be at tassel emergence will depend upon the length of time there were differences in development. Plants two leaf stages or more behind in growth may end up under the canopy of neighboring plants resulting in their limited contribution to harvest yield.

Broadcast Urea with ANVOL. Many overlook broadcast urea as an option to supplemental N applications. It provides an effective delivery of N to the soil surface, allowing roots easy access to N following a rain event. A volatilization inhibitor, such as ANVOL must be used to inhibit volatilization (loss of N as free ammonia from the surface). ANVOL inhibits the conversion of urea to ammonium-N for approximately 10 to 14 days, allowing time for incorporation (3/4" rain event or mechanically) before loss by volatilization becomes a concern.

The intensity of leaf burn following an application of broadcast urea will be dependent upon temperature, sunlight and humidity following the application. Any burn will appear as a marginal browning of the leaves that are extended after the application. The burn is related to moisture loss from the leaves, not fertilizer dust on the leaves. If hot and sunny conditions follow an application, the appearance of burn will be more noticeable. If it is cloudy and cool following an application, burn may not even occur. Regardless, leaf injury caused by a post-applied broadcast application of urea with ANVOL should not have any significant impact on harvest yield. Significant N loss due to volatilization may occur if rainfall is not received for several weeks after application (volatilization). An N deficiency may occur if an extended dry period follows any post-emerge N application.

Sulfur deficiency symptoms are commonly mistaken as nitrogen deficiency. Carefully assess light green corn before making the decision to apply additional nitrogen (Figure 1). A closer evaluation may lead to the use of sulfate-sulfur fertilizer (ammonium sulfate or calcium sulfate) broadcast over-the-top post-emerge. Ammonium sulfate provides both nitrogen as well as sulfur and can be applied



post-emerge. Calcium sulfate (gypsum) provides calcium and sulfur. An application rate of 15 to 20 pounds of sulfate-sulfur is a common recommendation. Ammonium Thiosulfate (A.T.S.) is also an option as a Y-Drop application. Ammonium Thiosulfate is not suggested as a post-emerge broadcast application. It can cause significant leaf burn if applied to plant tissues. Ammonium Thiosulfate may also be injected with U.A.N. However, injected applications between rows may limit or slow visual crop response due to positional unavailability (roots need to intercept band of application).

Many local soybean fields may appear to be a light-colored green. The lack of plant-available N in the upper 2 feet (N-TRACKER Plus finding), along with the cold early Spring temperatures slowing mineralization, have limited the amount of residual N available to jumpstart early growth of soybeans. Soybean plants rely on soil residual N until about 2 weeks after emergence. It takes that length of time for development of soil rhizobia nodules that begin to fix atmospheric N and provide it to the plant. Soybeans should return to a normal green color once soybean nodules start to fix atmospheric N. Several On-Farm Discovery Trials in 2021 tested 100 pounds of Ammonium Sulfate impregnated with Wolftrax Boron over the top of soybeans. Results showed a consistent response from the treatment. It could not be determined whether the response was caused by N, S, or B (or a combination). Visit with your local Illini F.S. Crop Specialist for more information or to give the treatment a try in 2022.

Production agriculture provides the packaged energy that helps feed the World. We need to continue



our effort to achieve a sustainable agriculture, one that connects enterprise profitability with environmental stewardship. "Focusing on M.O.M." is a message that embraces such a partnership. What comes to mind when thinking about M.O.M.? Loving, selfless, caring, and nurturing are common responses when asked. We want the urban public to think of the family farm and production agriculture the same way. "It's all about M.O.M., Minimizing environmental impact by Optimizing harvest yield, and Maximizing input utilization. What better way to represent production agriculture in East-Central Illinois. Want to learn more about M.O.M.? Visit with your local Illini F.S. Crop Specialist about our effort to focus on M.O.M. Listen to WIXY 99.1 Radio on Saturday mornings (7:45 a.m.) to hear Gale Cunningham share some thoughts about M.O.M.

The **secret to making M.O.M. a sustainable approach to nutrient stewardship** is the improvement of farm income. If all N fertilizer applied is utilized by the plant, there would be no loss of the N input investment achieving the greatest Return-On-Investment. There also would be no gaseous loss into the atmosphere or leaching losses into our water resources. Nitrogen is the greatest input cost to corn production in 2022, and is considered one of the top two pollutants in the Midwest. It is easy to understand why a focus on N can have both economic and environmental benefits. Don't overlook Nu-TRACKER Plus as a tool to start our journey to a new way of making or modifying our current nutrient management strategy. The tool has been improved and revised over the past seven years. Visit www.nutrackerPlus.com to learn more about the origin of management tool and how to participate or learn more. It is a good year to try NuTRACKER Plus.

NuTRACKER Plus is a valuable tool. Don't believe it? Try it. Visit with your local Illini F.S. Crop Specialist to sign-up for a site now and evaluate soil/plant nutrient relationships between Growth Stages V3 and V.T. (Tassel emergence). The cost of checking the status of nitrogen and other essential nutrients is only \$150/site/sampling date (includes tissue analysis). With two sampling dates remaining for this year's program, \$300 will provide you a snapshot of nutrient supply and availability at a point. We are learning by characterizing a point in the field rather than aggregating variability with random sampling from within the field. Don't delay to sign-up. We stop taking site registrations beyond V6. We create a bare spot by V6 to resample at V.T.

Farmers Natural Partners In Pollinator Effort

It seems an unlikely thought that farmers would respect a plant with “weed” in its name. Yet the last few years, our farm has mowed or sprayed around patches of milkweed in pastures, ditches, field edges and grassy knolls in support of the monarch butterfly. Now, our kids experience and identify this signature orange-and-black pollinator as I did as a kid.

More importantly, scientists estimate that one of every three bites of food directly depends on pollinators like butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, moths and more, a fact more widely celebrated during Pollinator Week in late June. The amount of field edges, ditches and conservation lands under farmer care position farmers to partner in this effort to support the pollinator population.

Illinois farms like ours allow more milkweed to proliferate and other flowering plants to bloom. The state’s private landowners have committed more than 825,000 acres of sensitive lands to government-administered conservation practices sometimes mixed with native blooming plants. Nearly 120,000 of those acres – roughly the equivalent of 120,000 football fields– bloom spring to fall as dedicated habitats for honeybees.

Farmers increasingly voice their desire to support the survival of pollinators, so the Illinois Farm Bureau this year launched a program to financially and technically support members wishing to start pollinator conservation projects. The Farm Bureau created a mowing guide for agricultural landscapes. It sponsored outreach programs and developed a video series to highlight notable projects.

The results are promising. In just 10 years, my kids are spotting more



monarch butterflies around the farm yard and seeing more ditch flowers to attract bees.

With proper precautions, pollinators and pesticides also can co-exist. The pesticide applicator training and exam that I completed this winter emphasized the importance of following label directions and noted responsible practices to keep local pollinators safe. Programs like DriftWatch allow voluntary communication between applicators and owners of apiaries. And we find the 4R’s apply to pollinator stewardship as much as agronomic success: Right product at the right rate, the right time and in the right place.

Not to mention, leaving the land better than we found it is the right thing to do.

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, backyard chickens and farm kids.

A Look Back... 100 Volumes of CCFB History

Looking back this month we will visit 2008, 1988, and 1950 to reflect on the events, photos, and articles that made headlines in Champaign County.

June 2008 – The article highlighted in this issue of the CCFB newsletter sounds eerily familiar to the current day with the headline reading, **Food Pricing Facts That You Can Swallow**.

“From the gasoline pump to the milk aisle at the grocery store, we have all noticed a drastic increase in what we are paying for the goods we once took for granted, we, as consumers, are now forced to prioritize our spending and shorten or even eliminate summer travel.

Not a day goes by that we don’t hear this year’s most popular questions: “why are prices so high.” We all wish there was a simple answer, however when you look at the issue from many angles, it is hard to pinpoint a simple response... For the record, the farmers share of the food marketing bill at a grocery store or restaurant is 19 percent on average. At today’s corn price around \$6 per bushel, the Illinois Farm bureau has calculated the farm value of corn in many commonly purchased items.

The farm value of corn in one gallon of milk is just 19 cents.” A table was also included in the article reflecting Farm Value of Corn in Retail Food Items (see photo)

Farm Value of Corn in Retail Food Items		
1 lb. Beef	\$4.00	\$6.00
1 lb. Pork	\$0.19	\$0.29
1 gal. Milk	\$0.26	\$0.38
1 doz. Eggs	\$0.13	\$0.19
1 lb. Chicken	\$0.28	\$0.42
1 lb. Chicken	\$0.14	\$0.21
12 oz. Corn Flakes	\$0.04	\$0.08

*Sources: National Corn Growers, Illinois Farm Bureau

2022 data for comparison - CCFB received the current day information according to the “Agriculture Department’s revised Food Dollar Series, farmers currently receive approximately 8% of every food marketing dollar. The farmer’s share of the retail food dollar is as low as 2% to 4% for highly processed foods such as bread and cereal, and as much as 35% for some fresh-market products.”

June 1988- This month began by kicking up dust and remodeling the Farm Bureau office located at 1713 West Springfield Ave, Champaign. Heating and cooling systems were updated too with a call for completion before the busy winter meeting schedule began.

Another story making headlines read **Farmers Receive Bills for Underground Storage Tanks**. According to this article “the office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal has begun sending bills to farmers for underground storage tanks

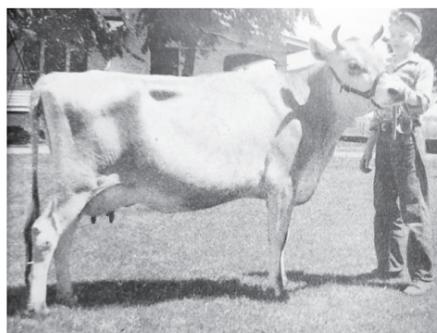
on their farm. The bills are issued for any underground tank on farms which exceed capacity of 1,100 gallons. The fee is \$100 per tank. The program that is billing farmers for their tank is the result of a federal law that was passed in Sept 1987.”

June 2008 – John Reifsteck hosted several local officials for a tour of agriculture. Officials took time touring the county to learn about agriculture. (See photo)

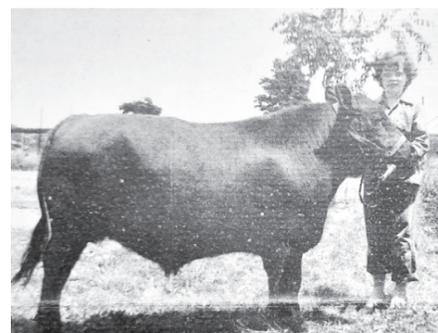


Local Leaders Tour Champaign County Agriculture
Above: John Reifsteck (top left) speaks with various local officials during the first bi-annual tour of agriculture. Urbana Mayor Laurel Prussing, State Senator Mike Frerichs (D, Champaign) and various other officials traveled the county visiting the Reifsteck farm, Birkey’s Farm Store and learning the facts on food and fuel prices. Many even drove a tractor for the first time. A second tour will be held during the harvest season.

June 1950- Several pages of this issue were dedicated to 4-H happenings in the county. Headlines screamed **Make The Best Better**. Several local 4-H members were highlighted in this issue including Sandra Woods and Joe Dean. (See photos) 4-H camp was highlighted with an all-time number of 175 youth in the county attending. Pig projects were the most popular project in the county with the next higher enrollment in beef projects.



Basilus Jester Caramba, Jersey heifer, classified very good. Owned by 4-H Club member, Joe Dean.



Blackie, Sandra Woods’ market steer.

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2022 CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU TRIPS AND TOURS

Time is running out to join CCFB members as they travel to shows across the Midwest! Trips fill up fast so call 217-352-5235 today.

DEADLINE COMING SOON!

July 21, 2022 (Thursday Matinee)

The Honky Tonk Angels, – Beef & Boards – Indianapolis, IN

When three gutsy gals from different backgrounds take charge of their lives, they decide to follow their honky tonk dreams to the city of Nashville. Combining 30 classic country tunes from Dolly Parton, Tammy Wynette, Patsy Cline and Loretta Lynn (including “Stand By Your Man,” “9 to 5,” and “Harper Valley PTA”) The Honky Tonk Angels is a hilarious, foot-stomping good time from the creator of Always... Patsy Cline.



Want to more about Beef & Boards? An online description of the facility found on Trip Advisor describes Beef & Boards as a “Dinner Theatre has been serving up food, fun and fabulous live entertainment for everyone since 1973. Located in College Park, the theatre was part of a chain of dinner theatres built by Louisville contractor J. Scott Talbott. It was called “Beef” because of the delicious hand carved roast beef served before the performances, and “Boards” referring to the boards or stage of a theatre. Today, the Indianapolis location is privately owned and the sole remaining Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, entertaining more than 150,000 theatergoers annually. Each season includes professional Broadway shows, plays and acclaimed children’s theatre productions by our resident Pyramid Players.”



Price per person: \$101.00 – Gratuity included in price
Deadline to register or cancel reservations is: June 13, 2022

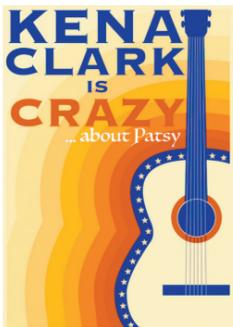
Additional trips with upcoming deadlines!

September 15, 2022 (Thursday Evening)

Kena Clark is Crazy...about Patsy – Beef House Dinner Theatre – Covington, IN

Price per person: \$102.00 – Gratuity included in price

Deadline to register or cancel reservations is: August 8, 2022



October 6, 2022 (Thursday Evening)

Run for Your Wife, The Barn III – Goodfield, IL

Price per person: \$92.00 – Gratuity included in price

Deadline to register or cancel reservations is: August 29, 2022

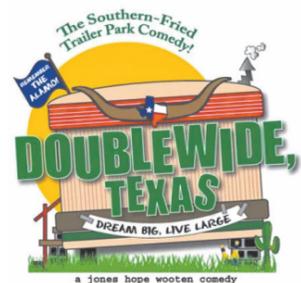


November 2, 2022 (Wednesday Matinee)

Doublewide Texas, Myers Dinner Theatre – Hillsboro, IN

Price per person: \$89.00 – Gratuity included in price

Deadline to register or cancel reservations is: October 3, 2022



December 14, 2022 (Wednesday Matinee)

White Christmas – Myers Dinner Theatre – Hillsboro, IN

Price per person: \$95.00 – Gratuity included in price

Deadline to register or cancel reservations is: November 7, 2022



Myers Dinner Theatre



AITC In Action – Agriculture In The Classroom Has Been Visiting Champaign County Schools Educating Local Youth About The Importance Of Agriculture.



Embryology at Wiley in Urbana



Embryology at Barkstall in Champaign



Seed germination in Mahomet

WOMEN’S COMMITTEE RECIPE OF THE MONTH Submitted by Carol Mazure

Spinach Salad with Amazing Dressing

Spinach Salad

- Fresh Spinach Leaves
- Bleu Cheese Crumbles

Wash and remove stems from fresh spinach. Place desired amount of spinach on each salad plate. Sprinkle approximately 1 Tbsp bleu cheese crumbles, 1 tsp craisins, and 1 tsp chopped pecans on each salad. Drizzle approximately 1 Tbsp Amazing Dressing on to each salad.

Amazing Dressing

- ¼ cup cider vinegar
- 3 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- ½ tsp minced garlic
- 1/8 cup lemon juice

Mix all ingredients well in blender to emulsify it.

This recipe is an excellent marinade for chicken or pork or makes a wonderful vinaigrette for salads. This recipe makes enough marinade for 5 lbs of chicken.

- Craisins
- Chopped Pecans

- 1/3 – ½ cup brown sugar (depending on how sweet you want it)
- 6 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- ¾ tsp salt
- Dash of black pepper