

CONNECT Champaign County



The Champaign County Farm Bureau has committed to bringing fast and reliable broadband internet to the rural parts of Champaign County through the CONNECT Champaign County program. CONNECT Champaign County is an organization spearheaded by the Champaign County Farm Bureau which is committed to supporting rural broadband access in Champaign County. The Champaign County Board has set aside \$10 million of the \$40.8 million it received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to match service providers' investment in broadband infrastructure and to leverage those funds for additional

Federal and State grants. Without Federal and State grants it would be impossible to connect the underserved rural parts of Champaign county to fast, reliable, fiber based, broadband internet.

Evidence of the disparity between the urban and rural parts of Champaign County in terms of internet access, reliability, and affordability was provided by a countywide survey conducted this summer by the University of Illinois Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning. A big thank-you goes out to the CCFB members that took the time to fill out that survey, which provided the necessary feedback to convince the county board that the disparity in internet availability would only be solved through increased investment in broadband infrastructure. The Champaign County Farm Bureau has been selected to be an advocate for these upcoming broadband projects. The CCFB has recruited several volunteers and is working to develop several communications channels to

inform the public about and to gather support for the upcoming broadband projects.

The CCFB and its volunteers will handle outreach to community stakeholders, landowners, civic groups, and local businesses through meetings and presentations. Champaign County Farm Bureau volunteers will also be gathering letters of support for the two preferred providers, Volo Internet and Nextlink Internet, which were chosen by the Champaign County Broadband Taskforce. These letters of support are a vital part of Federal and State grant applications. Champaign County Farm Bureau volunteers have already presented to the Mahomet Lions Club, the Sadorus Township Board, and the Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District.

There is no doubt that this is an ambitious, multi-year plan, which when completed will make Champaign County an example of how communities and rural areas can come together to better the livelihoods of all

residents. Due to the fact that this will be a fiber-based project, easements will be an important discussion point for all community stakeholders. The CCFB is committed to working with all possible stakeholders regarding the funding and completion of these projects. If you are a member of a civic group, community organization, or elected board, please contact the CCFB office at 217-352-5235 or email connectchampaigncounty@gmail.com to set up a time for a CONNECT Champaign County volunteer to come present to your organization.

All CCFB members are invited to visit www.connect-champaigncounty.com for the most up-to-date information on broadband projects in Champaign County. While there, make sure you sign up for the CONNECT e-newsletter that will update you on a monthly basis about where broadband projects stand. Finally, you can find CONNECT on Facebook @connectchampaigncounty.

Thank You Brad For 19 Years Of Service To The Farm Bureau!

Bradley Uken, FBCM, Champaign County Farm Bureau Manager, has announced his resignation beginning January 31, 2023. Brad and his family will be moving to Wisconsin. Brad has taken a job

with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau as the chief administrative officer. CCFB staff and members wish Brad the best of luck and congratulations as he takes on this new role. Thank you for your dedication and service to

the Champaign County Farm Bureau.



Bradley Uken



January Report

President, Paul Hunsinger



Paul Hunsinger, CCFB President

Hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Years! It sure was a busy December with The Illinois Farm Bureau Annual meeting being at the beginning of December. I had a great time in Chicago for the Annual Meeting. Seeing friends from other counties was great. We also met with our Adopted Legislator Greg Harris. Greg has been a great advocate for Agriculture. While Champaign County was in Chicago we presented Greg with the Urban Ag Leader of the Year award. This award is presented to someone not involved with Agriculture, but helps further Ag and supports our organization.

Once we got down to the business meeting on Monday, there was lots of great discussion on new resolutions. I find it very interesting watching the process of different resolutions being discussed on the delegate floor and then resolutions becoming true policy for the Farm Bureau right there on the spot. It makes you realize the strength that an organization like the Illinois Farm Bureau has and the impact it has on supporting us as members. This also makes me more aware that we need to do our part in supporting the progress Illinois Farm Bureau is making by responding to the Action Requests put out by the Illinois Farm Bureau and their FB ACT program. If you haven't already, please sign up for the FB ACT program and help the Illinois Farm Bureau support us by responding to those action requests. Text "FARM" to 52886 to join.

Hope everyone has a great start to the new year!

Sincerely,
Paul Hunsinger

Prime Timers Meeting

Prime Timers DO NOT meet in January.

Enjoy the New Year and join Prime Timers as they resume their regular meetings in February 2023.



The December Prime Timer meeting enjoyed a program presented by Matt Hausman on the topic of Political Involvement. Entertainment was provided by Mike & Kathy Brake.

2023 Illinois Dairy Summit

FEBRUARY 1 / 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

IS CUTTING COSTS ENOUGH? STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE PROFITABILITY

Visit IllinoisMilk.org for Summit details



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA CHAMPAIGN

Women's Committee

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January - NO MEETING

February 13 - Speaker:

Trooper Haylie Polistina,

Illinois State Police, Public Information Officer, Northern Region

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of



NATIONAL FFA WEEK
FEBRUARY 18-25, 2023

CCFB Calendar of Events January 2023

January 2	Office Closed	
January 19	Full Board	6:30 p.m.
January 24	Governmental Affairs	7:30 a.m.

2023 GOVERNMENTAL Affairs
LEADERSHIP Conference

SAVE the DATE

CHARTING
the Course
FEB 14, 2023



REGISTER today

FROM FOOD TO FLOWERS:

Everything
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& SPECIALTY CROP CONFERENCE



JAN 11-13, 2023
HYBRID CONFERENCE
SPRINGFIELD, IL • ONLINE



Illinois Farm Bureau Debuts New Environmental Documentary During 108th Annual Business Meeting

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. —Farmers and the agricultural research community joined forces in a new Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB)-produced documentary highlighting Illinois’ progress in reducing nutrient loss.

“Farmers continuously work to find innovative solutions for preserving our soil and to protect water quality,” said Richard Guebert Jr., IFB president. “We wanted to celebrate our farmers’ dedication to the environment, while sharing with a broader audience the trials and, in some cases, financial risks farmers take to conserve our natural resources.”

He added, “This documentary sends a clear message to various organizations and individuals working together on the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS): Continue to remain passionately dedicated to improving agriculture’s impact on the environment.”

Centered around the Ganschow family in Bureau County, the hourlong documentary, titled “Sustaining Our Future: A Farm Family Story,” illustrates how three generations of farmers have approached sustainability. It also highlights the role of scientific research in the process and includes perspectives from the Louisiana Farm Bureau on the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

During the filming of the documentary, Jim Ganschow unexpectedly passed away. IFB dedicates the documentary in his memory in respect and honor of the values and demeanor he lived by and the legacy he leaves behind.

IFB debuted the documentary to its members Saturday, Dec. 3, during the opening session of its 108th Annual Meeting at the Palmer House Hilton in downtown Chicago. Viewers can now watch the documentary at <https://bit.ly/3UQ05X9>.

“Farmers throughout Illinois go to great lengths to preserve our soil and protect water quality,” said Lauren Lurkins, IFB director of environmental policy. “IFB staff wanted to go to those same great lengths to produce a video that showcases these efforts, the farmer spirit and the collaboration required to achieve the goals of the NLRS.”

She added that the documentary “does a great job of highlighting not just the policy issue at hand, but the work IFB has done to address nutrient loss and the personal stories of our farmer members involved.”

IFB’s video and environmental teams partnered with farmers, county Farm Bureaus, researchers and other key stakeholders to film the documentary over the course of a year. Dozens of interviews and archival footage show the long-term commitment and continuous improvement involved in conservation.

The documentary also shows Illinois farmer’s progress in furthering the goals of the NLRS. The strategy is a guide for wastewater treatment, urban and agriculture stakeholders to reduce the loss of nitrate-nitrogen by 15% and total phosphorus by 25% into Illinois waterways by 2025. The eventual target is a 45% reduction in the loss of these nutrients to the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico.

To read more about IFB’s environmental initiatives, visit www.ilfb.org/Environment.



Michael Ganschow harvests corn during a final video shoot of Illinois Farm Bureau’s new documentary “Sustaining Our Future: A Farm Family Story.” The documentary is centered around the Ganschow family in Bureau County as they work to implement conservation practices. (Photo by Catrina Rawson, IFB photographer).



Illinois Farm Bureau’s video production team interviews farmer Michal Ganschow of Bureau County during a final shoot for its new documentary “Sustaining Our Future: A Farm Family Story.” Ganschow is a third-generation farmer who, with his family, has helped pioneer on-farm conservation practices. (Photo by Catrina Rawson, IFB photographer)



Sustaining Our Future

A Farm Family Story

Illinois Farm Bureau’s
first ever documentary

Watch Now!



Women’s Committee Supports CU Canteen Run With Collection

The Women’s Committee will have a blanket, gloves, and hat drive to benefit the CU Canteen Run. The Canteen Run serves the homes four time per week in the Champaign-Urbana area. The CU Canteen Run has a need for the items listed above in the cold, winter weather. Items can be dropped off at the front entrance of the Champaign County Farm Bureau. The collection will run from now until February 13, 2023. Any questions please call Juanita Henry at 217-598-2586.





Apply Now

Scholarship Application Period
JANUARY 1- FEBRUARY 15



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Ag in the Classroom 2022-23

Feed the Future with Aeroponics



Thanks to the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois for the Community Commitment Grant. This grant will enable us to launch a new program this Spring called "Feed the Future with Aeroponics".



Reindeer Fieldtrip

Students visited

Hardey's Reindeer Ranch virtually to learn about reindeer in the December lesson. You can too!
Visit <https://youtu.be/pVRKoxBKOqc>

How to knit a mitten

How do you knit a pair of mittens? The first step is to get a sheep, of course! Students will hear a playful story about a girl and her sheep. During the lesson, students will make a felt marble to take home. -Based on the book If You Want to Knit a Mitten by Laurie Purdue Salas



Try It!

Students will meet fearless Frieda Caplan--the produce pioneer who changed the way Americans eat by introducing exciting new fruits and vegetables.. Students will map where many of these "strange" produce items originated. We will also explore and sample some of the produce.

George Washington Carver

George was an agricultural scientist and inventor who developed hundreds of products using peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soybeans. He was also a prolific artist. Students will explore George's scientific discoveries and his art--a rare combination!



www.ccfbfoundation.com/aitc



Champaign County Ag in the Classroom

Connect with us



Cash Prizes
Dinner
Casino Games
Golf Cart
Raffle

Join us for the 2023 Cash Bash!

Royal Community Center
Saturday, March 4th - 4:00pm-8:00pm

\$100 / Ticket - Admits 2
Only 200 Tickets Being Sold!

Purchase Your Ticket Today!

Online www.CCFBFoundation.com/CashBash



Mail a Check Payable To: CCFBFoundation
"Cash Bash" in Memo

In Person Champaign County Farm Bureau Office
or 801 N. Country Fair Drive - Suite A
By Phone Champaign, IL 61821
217-352-5235



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KORY KRAUS,
GENERAL MANAGER

FROM THE FIELD

by Dr. Howard Brown

ON-FARM DISCOVERY – 2022

The rules governing input use have changed over the past two decades. Yield expectations have significantly increased. No longer is optimum yield linked with just N-P-K or soil pH. Consideration of other growth-limiting factors will be needed to reach and sustain higher harvest yield expectations. Will specific micronutrients become an annual part of nutrient applications? When will they need to be applied? What form works best? What is the Return-On-Investment (R.O.I.)? These questions can be addressed by utilizing your soils, your history of input applications, and your harvest data. It's all about On-Farm Discovery using the growing environment in your fields. Give On-Farm Discovery a try. Visit your local Illini F.S. Crop Specialist about a trial that addresses your curiosity.

N MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Knowing the amount and time of rain events in 2023 would provide enough information to know when to apply the corn crop's N requirement with one application. However, since the weather remains unknown, planning for multiple applications utilizing different sources, times of application, and placements is the best defense to minimize N loss and maximize utilization, what good environmental stewardship is all about (Focus on M.O.M.)

A good nitrogen recommendation starts with an estimate of N required. Nitrogen is the greatest input cost in corn production and a primary concern to water and air quality when it is not utilized. It makes economic sense to focus on its management from an economic and environmental perspective. **Start** with the N Rate Calculator to establish an economic base application. The N Rate Calculator considers the market price of corn per bushel to the cost of N per pound. Maximizing yield per acre can sometimes be costly, especially if that last bushel of corn harvested requires significantly more N than was covered by the revenue it generates. The N Rate Calculator *does not mandate* the rate of N a farmer will apply. It provides a *starting point* for an N Management Strategy. Visit the website and give it a try. <http://cnrc.agron.iastate.edu/>

Two-Pass Strategy. Consider a combination of source, rate, time, and placement (the 4Rs) to create a Two-Pass N Management Strategy. Start with 50% of the N in the fall or early Spring with a nitrification inhibitor. Apply the remaining N with herbicides as a broadcast application of U.A.N. in the Spring before planting.

Three-Pass Strategy. Split the Spring N application and apply 25% with herbicides and 25% as a post-emerge application. Note: There should be 2-3 weeks between the preplant and post-emerge applications.

APPLICATION OPTIONS

Early Pre-Plant. An early preplant application of N minimizes N loss risk compared to Fall-applied N but increases the chance of soil compaction or weather risk preventing the application. Consider using a nitrification inhibitor with all N applications made well before planting. Early Spring N applications are susceptible to saturated soil conditions and N loss before late April/early May.

Pre-Plant. A minimum broadcast application of 50 pounds of N is suggested. Using U.A.N. as the carrier for preplant herbicide applications is a common



FARMER QUESTIONS FARMER FIELDS FARMER DATA

Validating product Return-On-Investment, utilizing your farming practices in your field, and collecting your yield data. No better way to determine a product's value.

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method. The application provides the plant with a source of N during the early stages of stand establishment.

Planting-Time. A planting-time application of N provides a readily available nutrient source to the young seedling. The cost vs. benefit of application timing and placement minimizes the adoption of this practice. The rate of N applied will depend upon placement.

Early-Post. An application of N at the "early growth" stage (V3-V6) minimizes the risk of N loss due to an early wet Spring. The early-post application can be injected (U.A.N./anhydrous ammonia), surface broadcast (urea treated with NBPT), or banded (U.A.N. Y-Drop). Surface broadcast urea treated with NBPT or U.A.N. Y-Drop will result in a faster crop response due to placement. Any application method should work if moisture can move the N into the plant.

Late-Post. Applications of N during or soon after rapid growth can be timely if N loss is significant pre-plant or early post. However, the risks associated with such an application should be considered. Plants are rapidly growing. An untimely rain could increase the risk of not making the application. High winds could tangle

corn plants, making it impossible for a ground application (aerial N applications are much more expensive). There is a significant risk of not receiving adequate rainfall following the application to get the applied N into the plants (normally dry in late June/early July).

Sign-up for a Nu-TRACKER Plus

Site in 2023. An unexpected change in the growing environment can easily compromise nitrogen availability. Will it rain? Will it stop raining? These are common questions during the growing season. Establish a **Nu-TRACKER Plus** Site to watch changes in plant-available N over time. How many pounds of N are detected in the upper two feet? What form is it in? Do I have an adequate concentration of sulfur, zinc, and boron? These are common questions that **Nu-TRACKER Plus** attempts to address. The tool has been used as an early warning tool when N is lost and to determine the status of essential nutrients, such as sulfur, boron, and zinc. Sound interesting? Want more information? Contact your local Illini F.S. Crop Specialist to learn more about N-TRACKER Plus or register a site for 2023. You can also visit our website at www.thinkstewardship.com and register yourself.



Avoiding laws and regulations. It will not be laws and regulations that help Illinois meet the targeted reductions in nutrient loading by 2025; it will be the adoption of practices that maximize nutrient utilization, optimize harvest yield, and minimize nutrient loss to the environment (*If you use it, you won't lose it.*) It is about using, not losing, nutrients that were paid for and applied. What we need are tools that help us quantify the behavior of nutrients in the soil once applied. Is it still there? Was it lost? Where did it go? Is there enough? Once we are satisfied with the answers to these questions, we will improve how we manage nutrient inputs from an economic and environmental perspective. Now is the time to proactively continue our search for the answers. Let us help you with Nu-TRACKER Plus and N-TRACKER Tile Water. Visit your local Illini F.S. Crop Specialist for more information or to sign-up for a site in 2023. We don't have all the answers, but we know how to search for solutions. Not a customer? Give us a chance to help.



Nathan Hubbard
COUNTRY Financial
Agency Manager



Dan Punkay
217-328-0023



Keith Garrett
217-485-3010



Austin Beaty
217-352-2652



Jordan McDaniel
217-352-9817



Barry Karuzis
217-655-7176



Tanna Suits
217-892-4479



The Living Benefits of Life Insurance

by Christy McFarland@countryfinancial.com

There's a lot to consider when it comes to life insurance. Aside from sifting through the different **policy types** and coverages, there's also a misconception it's only meant to provide money to your loved ones if you passed away. While that might be the main purpose, **whole life insurance** is flexible and can provide a key benefit while you're still alive.

How? Well, whole life insurance policies have a cash value that increases over time, and the cash value you accumulate is yours to spend if the need arises. So, whether you need it for an emergency fund or a substantial payment, your whole life policy can work for you while you're still living.

Or, you may choose to use it to...

- Help fund a child's education
- Supplement retirement income
- Make a down payment on a vacation home
- Start a business or expand an existing one

Although whole life insurance is not an investment, a savings vehicle, or a retirement plan, the cash value from your policy can be used for a variety of needs and provide extra security for you and your family as you continue through life.

Life insurance will never be more affordable than it is today. Feel confident about your future - through all of life's surprises - with a whole life insurance policy.



Rhonda Wagner
Administrative Assistant
Champaign Agency



Bret Kroencke
217-359-9391



Kolby Jackson
217-586-5030



Chris Greenwold
217-355-8675



David Palmer
217-352-3341



Steve Derry
217-352-2655



Scott Jackson
217-359-9335



Dawn Babb
217-892-4479



Andrew Deedrich
217-359-3941



Tim Osterbur
217-469-2033

Maggi's Membership Corner

By Maggi Maxstadt, CCFB Membership & Outreach Coordinator

Happy new year, Farm Bureau members!

The big event this month is the 111th Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Thank you to those members who submitted your proxy forms!

The Board of Directors decided to transition the meeting to a proxy format in 2021 due to the pandemic. This format means that a voting member (like you) allows our Board of Directors to vote on their behalf. More information on the Annual Meeting can be found in the upcoming CCFB newspapers!

COMING SOON: 2023 Plat Books! Find more information in our February newsletter. Once they are available, check our Facebook, Twitter, or the Monday Morning Update emails for details. Not receiving the Monday Morning Update? Add an email to your membership on myIFB.org or call the office to make the change.

Staff will be sitting down in the coming weeks to talk about goals and upcoming events for the year. We had a wonderful year of programs in 2022, and want to continue to provide relevant programming for our membership.

2023 is looking to be a year of BIG changes for the Champaign County Farm Bureau. Although it may be bittersweet, change helps to move the organization forward. From staffing to the office building itself, hold on for the (hopefully) smooth ride! I'll see you in February!



Cattle 'Cool' With Colder Weather



One of my favorite holiday cards routinely arrives at the turn of the New Year. My friend mails photo cards that capture her cattle, sometimes in the romantic calm of winter. One year it was a snow-capped hay bale. Another, it was the steaming breaths of her cows with frost-covered backs. Just looking at that photo, you can feel the frigid air of that winter morning, but the cows appear at peace, content with the cold Illinois landscape.

And they are. Cows wear leather coats year-round, a clever observation from my cattle-farming cousin. While she and her husband pile insulated bibs, heavy coats, stocking hats, gloves and sub-zero-rated boots in the mudroom this time of year, the cows wear what they need every month of the year. She finds that her cows prefer winter temperatures over those of summer.

Likewise, our farm's cows lie down to rest in the snow, unbothered by the frozen landscape. If a cold wind blows, the cows huddle together or locate shelter, whether in the barn or natural areas like



trees. With help from farmers like my friend, cousin and dad, cattle are incredibly hardy. Daily access to hay provides cattle with their primary energy source in a season when the pasture grass doesn't grow. Supplements of minerals and protein support overall health. And farmers ensure heating elements remain operable to keep water thawed and fresh in automatic water drinkers.

Livestock caretakers generally dread the weather events that cancel school. Heavy snow means clearing barnyards and driveways to reach the cattle and then scooping paths to their food and water. Still, most cattle farmers will take snow and frozen ground over mud any day. Mud ranks worse than

a blizzard, making a mess of the pastures and cattle lots. Especially with cool temperatures, the wet landscape increases fatality risks for newborn calves in late winter and early spring. The sloppy terrain quite simply makes getting around on hoof or foot a genuine hassle for cows and their farmers, and to the house cleaner's dismay, the farmhouse mudroom earns its title. In fact, I never expect to see mud on our holiday cards of well wishes.

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.

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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
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Assistant Manager -- Bailey Conrady
Communications Director -- Lesley Gooding
Administrative Assistant -- Brenda Wood
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CCFB Delegates Attend IAA Annual Meeting

In early December, several members of the Champaign County Farm Bureau attended the IAA Annual Meeting in Chicago. Delegates voted on IAA resolutions and policy changes that will impact IFB policy in the next year.



CCFB's Adopted Legislator, Rep. Greg Harris, is presented with the Urban Ag Leader of the Year Award. Rep. Harris is also pictured visiting with CCFB members in the suite during the IAA Annual Meeting.



Cody & Bailey Conrady are pictured with Charles B. Shuman Award Winners Ed & Judy McMillan. Champaign County Farm Bureau nominated the McMillians for this prestigious award.



CCFB Delegates on the floor.

Women's Committee Hosts Christmas Party



The Champaign County Women's Committee gathered for an end of the year Christmas Party which was held at the CCFB Auditorium. It was a fun event with great food and wonderful conversation. The Women's Committee does not meet in January.



WOMEN'S COMMITTEE RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Paulette Brock

Banana Nut Muffins

Ingredients:

- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. mashed banana
- 2 eggs
- 2 C. Bisquick biscuit mix
- ¾ c. chopped nuts

Directions:

Cream sugar and cream cheese until light and fluffy. Beat in mashed banana and eggs. Add biscuit mix and mix lightly. Add nuts and mix by hand. Place in muffin tins and bake at 350 degrees for approximately 20 min. Yield: 2.5 dozen.

Muffins can be frozen for later use. They can be served for breakfast, warmed in the microwave or as a snack.

The muffins are enhanced by sprinkling sanding sugar on the top before baking as well as some finely chopped nuts to give a bakery appearance. Also, add more nuts than called for in the recipe if you are a nut lover. These muffins are a favorite treat for the Champaign County Farm Bureau Women's Committee sewing team.

