

The Friday Leader

News from the Champaign County Farm Bureau

News for the Week Ending Friday, July 24, 2015

Join us!

This Week's Hot Topics

- **DIESEL PRICES TANK AMID GLOBAL GLUT** – The world is awash in diesel, sending prices plunging and delivering some commuters a rare bounty. Diesel at the pump was cheaper than regular gasoline in 21 states Wednesday, according to auto club AAA. The national average price for retail gasoline, at \$2.746 a gallon, was 4.6 cents below diesel at \$2.792, The price for retail gas was \$3.565 a year ago and for diesel last year was \$3.859.

- **MADIGAN JOINS PEERS IN SEEKING CELLPHONE CALL BLOCKING**– Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan has joined dozens of peers in asking major wireless phone carriers to adopt technology that allows users to block unwanted calls. In a letter from the National Association of Attorneys General, it says the Federal Communications Commission declared last month that call blocking services would not violate federal law and asks the companies to develop them.
- **SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY FUND TO RUN DRY NEXT YEAR**– The 11 million Americans who receive Social Security disability face steep benefit cuts next year, the government said Wednesday. The trustees who oversee Social Security and Medicare said the disability trust fund will run out of money in late 2016. That would trigger an automatic 19 percent cut in benefits, unless Congress acts.
- **WIND FARM TO BE BUILT AFTER ALL**– An 81-turbine wind farm will be developed near Mount Pulaski after the project received approval from the Logan County Board. The Meridien project will be built by Relight U.S. Corp., a Delaware-based company. The project is expected to be completed in December 2016.
- **DROUGHT DINGS QUALITY OF WINTER WHEAT IN NORTHWEST**– intense drought conditions have shrunk the kernels and disrupted the proteins of winter wheat

crops in Montana, Washington, Oregon and Idaho, the region that produces a fifth of the U.S. harvest.

- **SENATE ACTION IS DELAYED ON TRANSPORTATION BILL DEAL** – With a deadline looming for a cutoff of highway aid to states, Senate Republicans failed to muster enough votes to take up a bill that would extend transportation infrastructure and other programs for six years.
- **MERGER RIPPLE IN ILLINOIS?** – Aetna’s agreement to acquire rival Humana would further concentrate the business of selling private Medicare plans to seniors in Illinois, according to data provided by the Kaiser Family Foundation. With the merger, Aetna and Humana together would provide coverage to 37 percent of all Illinoisans enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans.
- **CITI TO REFUND \$700 MILLION** – Citigroup will refund \$700 million to consumers and will pay \$70 million in fines for illegal and deceptive credit card practices. The order, coming from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, represents the latest multimillion dollar settlement against the largest credit card issuers for their roll in selling “add-on” products to customers, such as credit score monitoring or “rush” processing of payments.

- U OF I DIXON SPRINGS BEEF FIELD DAY - The University of Illinois Dixon Springs Agricultural Center will have its annual beef field day, starting at 5 p.m. July 30 at the center, near Simpson.

A Note from Adam Nielsen

The U.S. House yesterday voted 275-150 to pass a pro-science, pro-consumer bill that would prevent states and local governments from implementing mandatory GMO food labeling laws. A big win for [Illinois agriculture](#) on a Farm Bureau priority issue.

The Illinois delegation voted 13-4 in favor of the legislation which we will work to pass this fall in the U.S. Senate. A number of amendments aimed at watering down the bill were soundly defeated.

Roll call on H.R. 1599

Yes – Bost, Bustos, Danny Davis, Rodney Davis, Dold, Duckworth, Foster, Hultgren, Kelly, Kinzinger, Lipinski, Roskam and Shimkus. (Please thank these folks in the coming weeks)

No – Gutierrez, Quigley, Rush and Schakowsky

Duckworth votes YES

A big thank you to all members and managers who responded to the action request targeting Rep. Duckworth's office on

Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. Those calls were instrumental in pushing her off the NO-leaning fence into YES territory.

Your strong response demonstrated that not only can we match the efforts of our opponents but we can also move nimbly when needed to take advantage of an opportunity to win an important vote in a fast-moving political environment. Great effort.

Again, thank you!

Mark Your Calendar!

JULY 29, 2015 FROM 06:30PM TO 09:00PM

Grain Handling Safety Education Training
CCFB

801 N Country Fair Dr
Champaign, IL 61821

JULY 30, 2015 FROM 05:30PM TO 07:00PM

4-H Livestock Auction

Great Opportunity!!!

Today in History

- 1567 King James VI becomes king of Scotland at the age of 1.
- 1783 Simon Bolivar, El Liberator, is celebrated in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Venezuela.
- 1832 The first wagon train makes it across the Rocky Mountains led by Benjamin Bonneville.
- 1969 Apollo 11, the first space mission to put a man on the moon, splashes down safely in the Pacific Ocean.
- 1979 Carl Yastrzemski hits his 400th career home run at Fenway Park.
- 2005 Lance Armstrong wins a record 7th Tour de France.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Dave

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“Champaign County Farm Bureau will strive to assist families in agriculture by recognizing and responding to issues of concern while strengthening partnerships and improving farm family life for this and future generations.”