

FUELing Impact – Remembering Ross Booker



The Booker Family (left to right); Ross, Cassie, Anthony, Marita and David



David and Marita Booker present the first Ross Booker Memorial FUEL Grant to Cole Pruitt (center)



Ross Booker



Ross Booker

A new program offered by the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation has gained support in a very special way.

The Farm Bureau Foundation's FUEL Grant program encourages the expansion of essential agricultural career pathways. Career-driven students pursuing associates degrees, certificates, or accreditations in various technical or "agricultural trade" programs are eligible for FUEL Grants.

After 3 years, the Foundation has funded nearly 30 students in their pursuit of career training. These students are studying to be Advanced Applicator Technicians, Case New Holland Technicians, John Deere Technicians, and Diesel Power Equipment Mechanics, in addition to many other hands-on curricula.

A recent gift to the CCFB Foundation expands funding to these FUEL Grants while remembering a young man who represented everything that's good about our agricultural community.

Ross Booker was a 2020 graduate a St Joseph-Ogden High School where he was a member of the football team. He was also a member and officer of the St Joseph-Ogden FFA Chapter receiving the American FFA Degree, the organizations highest recognition.

On March 5th 2022 while operating a tow-truck at the scene of an accident, Booker was struck and killed by a passing vehicle.

In the days and weeks following his passing, Ross Booker was remembered fondly by friends as caring, outgoing, funny, and a friend to anyone he came in contact with. A hard worker, Booker held various jobs and volunteer positions. He was a volunteer in his community serving the St. Joseph-Stanton Fire Department. He had just completed Diesel Mechanics training at Parkland College. The College would ultimately honor Ross by awarding his degree posthumously.

It's Ross's passion for impacting others, and a hope to encourage others to follow in Ross's footsteps that led to the gift to the Farm Bureau Foundation. Ross's Parents Dave and Marita Booker, and older brother Anthony, hope their gift will encourage others to pursue their dreams and receive hands-on education that will impact the community Ross Booker loved.

The Ross Booker Endowment will fund a FUEL Grant to do just that. While the Farm Bureau Foundation hold

FUEL GRANTS

Supporting the hands-on careers that FUEL production agriculture!

2024 Grant Recipients

<p>Joel Bear John Deere Tech. Lake Land College Homer</p>	<p>Cole Pruitt Precision Agriculture Parkland College St. Joseph-Ogden</p>
<p>Tanner Harris Case New Holland Tech. Parkland College Fisher</p>	<p>Zackary Thurman Case New Holland Tech Parkland College Fisher</p>
<p>Quinn Kuhns John Deere Tech. Lake Land College Fisher</p>	<p>Jill Uken Diesel Mechanics Parkland College Mahomet</p>
<p>Jarrod Liffick Case New Holland Tech. Parkland College Penfield</p>	<p>Aidan Ward Precision Agriculture Parkland College Tolono</p>

Ag Future of America

Jama Craig

Mahomet - Seymour High School
Parkland Pathways to Illinois
Agricultural Education

August Report



President, Doug Downs

Your membership in the Champaign County Farm Bureau holds a lot of value. You've heard this time and again and will probably hear it some more. As always, remember our partners in the area who offer goods and services at a discount. Discounts are a nice benefit, but have you also seen the list of informational meetings that have taken and are still taking place this summer which are put on by the Champaign County Farm Bureau? We recently had a wind and solar meeting where 100 people packed the room for 90 minutes of incredible free information from 3 experts. Putting a price tag on that information isn't possible, but it's all part of your membership benefits. If you have a neighbor, or friend, whom you know is not a member, you might mention that to them. This is the time of year when we focus on bringing in new members and reaching out to those who may not understand all the value associated with membership.

We also have a new group that has just started meeting and its focus is on the professional side of ag. It's called "Agri link". Watch for the times and meeting dates in the Monday morning email update. This group is focused on ag professionals in the area and is meant to connect professionals in ag services with others who can also add value to our farm bureau with their unique perspectives. If you are a professional in an ag field or ag educational field who would like to connect with other like-minded folks, this is the group for you. It's starting out as a relaxed atmosphere for networking with a short presentation from a host ag business and has really flourished. With the ag retail business, machinery dealers, and university researchers in the county we feel this is an area where ag professionals can team up with us. There is strength in numbers and we can all benefit each other.

On another note, if you have a garden, you probably have tomatoes coming out of your ears and wonder what you're going to do with all that zucchini and cucumbers. It's a shame that a lot of those gardens over produce and likely a lot goes to waste. If you have the ability to get things picked up, please check with a local food pantry to see if they can take it. There are a couple churches with pantries in my area struggling to fill the need and this is the time of year we can make a difference. Not only in the garden, but even the feedlot. If your selling freezer beef or butcher hogs and have an "unclaimed" quarter or two, those food pantries can use it. Keep that in mind and maybe help out some who are struggling with the most basic of needs.

Sincerely,
Doug Downs

Prime Timers Meeting

August 8, 2024

Speaker: Gordie Hedrick

Parkland College Ag Department

Entertainment: Gary Fairchild

\$8 per person/Fried Chicken Buffet

No Walk-Ins

Call to reserve your spot by August 5

CCFB Office - 217-352-5235

CCFB Calendar of Events August 2024

August 1	CCFB Foundation Golf Outing	
August 6	Marketing Meeting	6:00 p.m.
August 8	Prime Timers	10:00 a.m.
August 11	CCFB Annual Picnic	4 p.m.
August 12	Women's Committee	9:30 a.m.
August 15	Full Board	6:30 p.m.
August 20	Governmental Affairs	7:30 a.m.
August 20	YL Discussion Meet	5:30 p.m.
August 22	Carbon Markets Meeting	9 a.m.
August 27	Burger Bash	6:30 p.m.

Web Workshop – September 9 @ 9:30 a.m.

Do you feel like your electronics are challenging you when using them? Do you feel confident you are using them to their full potential? If you identify with deficits in the use of your electronics, the Women's Committee is hosting a Web Workshop presented by Champaign Public Library personnel to assist you.



The workshop will be at the Farm Bureau auditorium on September 9th at 9:30 a.m. This event is open to both men and women in our entire Farm Bureau membership. Our previous web workshops have been very popular. Thus, we simply ask that you call the Farm Bureau to register at 217-352-5234 so we can insure adequate seating for all who are interested in attending.

Women's Committee

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

Calendar of Events

• August 12, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m. – CCFB Auditorium

General Meeting featuring speaker Sophia Hortin - Farm Manager for Peoples Company, formerly Atkins Group.

***September 9, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m.**

CCFB Auditorium

Web Workshop

FUELing Impact continued from Page 1

various endowments for the traditional scholarship funds, this is the first endowment specifically for hands-on training in production agriculture.

The first recipient of the Ross Booker Memorial FUEL Grant is 2024 St. Joseph-Ogden High School graduate, Cole Pruitt. Cole will be attending Parkland College next fall where he will be pursuing training as an Advanced Applicator Technician. The Farm Bureau Foundation, and the Booker family, are pleased to recognize Cole's commitment to agriculture, and his service to his school and community through this award.

To learn more about the Farm Bureau Foundation, FUEL Grant's, or the Ross Booker Memorial Endowment, please contact the CCFB Foundation at 217-352-5235 or www.ccfbfoundation.com.



Upcoming Dates – Mark Your Calendars!

***Exploring Carbon Markets for Farmers**

August 22nd

CCFB Auditorium

9am-noon

RSVP by August 15th

Lunch is served

Speakers are PCM, Growmark, One Earth Energy, and IL Soy

***Fire Extinguishers Safety Day**

August 23rd

Illini Fire Equipment - 2801 N Lincoln Ave, Urbana, IL 61802

8am-2pm

CCFB will cover the cost of inspection and CCFB Members will get a discount on services.

***Group: Women Rooted in Ag Canning Class**

September 4th

5:30pm

RSVP by Monday 8/26

A demo style with presenter & samples to taste.

SAVE THIS DATE

FOR FUN & ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

**Ag Activity Day At Curtis Orchard
September 21st
10AM-2PM**



The Champaign County Farm Bureau Women's Committee invite you to join us at Curtis Orchard in Champaign for some great family fun ag activities!

Bring your kids and/or grandkids (ages 3-8 years old) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. September 21st, and join us in the Poppy Field Pavilion, just across from the pony rides and next to the Putt and Play area. Look for signs & balloons directing you.

We will have lots of agriculture activities like: Apple Tasting; Corn Shucking field corn; Soybean Stress Balls made to take home; Hay Bale launch; and more!! The whole family will enjoy the Ag magazines that will be a take home item with more great items in a convenient bag to carry.

Each child will earn tokens upon completing the fun ag learning activities for a Pony Ride, the Corn Maze, Emerald City Rope Maze, Tractor Tour, Pumpkin Jumping Pad and even more at the Orchard.

More details will be shared in the September newsletter. Looking forward to seeing you there!

2024 CCFB Trip Dates, Deadlines & Information

Questions? Call the Champaign County Farm Bureau at 217-352-5235.

Wednesday, August 14, 2024 (Matinee)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

The Bikinis - A New Musical Beach Party!

CIRCA '21 Dinner Playhouse – Rock Island, IL

Everyone's favorite girl group from the sixties, THE BIKINIS – or "The Jersey Girls," as they're affectionately called – are back together after 20 years, bringing back the sun, fun and all the great songs they sang down on the boardwalk at the Jersey Shore. THE BIKINIS relive their heyday and beyond, beginning the summer of 1964, the night these four inseparable friends won the Belmar Beach Talent Contest. THE BIKINIS is a nonstop celebration of song filled with hits such as "It's In His Kiss," "Yellow Polka Dot Bikini," "Under The Boardwalk," "I Will Survive," "It's Raining Men," and many more!

Price Per Person: \$120

Deadline to Register or cancel reservation: Please call CCFB Office

Thursday, September 26, 2024 (Matinee)

Million Dollar Quartet

Beef & Boards Dinner

Theatre – Indianapolis, IN



On December 4, 1956, an extraordinary twist of fate brought Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley together at Sun Records in Memphis for what would be one of the greatest jam sessions ever. Million Dollar Quartet bring that legendary December night to life featuring an incredible score performed live onstage, including: "Blue Suede Shoes", "Fever", "Walk the Line", "Sixteen Tons", "Who Do You Love", "That's All Right", "Folsom Prison Blues", "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On", "Hound Dog"and more.

Price Per Person: \$120

Deadline to Register or cancel reservation: August 23

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 (Matinee)

Miracle on 34th Street

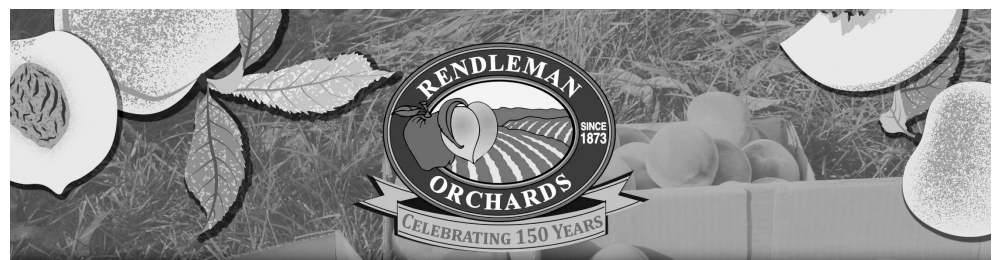
Harmony Theatre – Hillsboro, IN

A holiday classic from the writer of the musical theatre classic, *The Music Man!*, and based on the movie of the same name, *Miracle on 34th Street* features a book and score by none other than Meredith Willson. Single mother, Doris Walker, doesn't want her six-year-old Susan's head filled with romantic notions. Their neighbor, Fred Gailey, tries to woo Doris by charming Susan and taking her to see Santa Claus at Macy's, where Doris works. Doris is not impressed, but when it turns out that Macy's Santa may, in fact, be the real Kris Kringle, a wave of love spreads across New York City that melts even the most cynical hearts. Filled with humor, spectacle and such beloved songs as "Pinecones and Hollyberries," "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" and "My State, My Kansas," this joyous, heartwarming musical is pure family entertainment, wholesome without being cloying. *Miracle on 34th Street The Musical* is the perfect holiday treat for everyone.



Price Per Person: \$120

Deadline to Register or cancel reservation: October 28



PEACH PROGRAM with Rendleman Orchards

- \$40 25 lb box
- \$9 Old-Fashioned Cobbler Mix
- \$9 Peach Crisp Mix

Call 217-352-5235 to place your order by August 12th

Payment is due upon placement of order

Pick up will be around August 21st - CCFB will call and notify customers a week in advance of pickup. MUST pickup on delivery day!

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
Farm. Family. Food.

2024 YOUNG LEADER

DISCUSSION MEET

Contact your county Farm Bureau* for eligibility and contest information.

Districts	Date	Location	Orientation Time	Contest Starting Time
1	Mon. July 29	DeKalb County FB, Sycamore	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
2	Wed. August 21	Stephenson County FB, Freeport	5:30 PM	6:00 PM
3	Wed. August 7	Henry County FB, Cambridge	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
4	Tues. August 6	LaSalle County FB, Ottawa	5:00 PM	5:30 PM
5 & 6	Thurs. August 1	Schaefer Pioneer, Mazon	5:30 PM	6:00 PM
7 & 8	Tues. August 13	Tazewell County FB, Pekin	6:30 PM	7:00 PM
9	Tues. July 16	Brown County FB, Mount Sterling	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
10	Tues. August 6	Cass-Morgan County FB, Jacksonville	6:30 PM	7:00 PM
11 & 12	Tues. August 20	Champaign County FB, Champaign	5:30 PM	6:00 PM
13 & 17	Thurs. July 18	Edwards County FB, Albion	5:30 PM	6:00 PM
14	Mon. August 12	Montgomery County FB, Hillsboro	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
15 & 16	Wed. August 14	Madison County FB, Edwardsville	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
18	Tues. July 23	Massac County FB, Metropolis	6:30 PM	7:00 PM

Topics for District Discussion Meets:
Young farmers and ranchers are finding they need to diversify their farm portfolio. What are some ways that young farmers and ranchers can utilize diversification to explore new revenue sources? How can Farm Bureau support young members as they strengthen their farm and ranch businesses?
Farmers and ranchers are reliant on multiple energy sources to run equipment, heat livestock barns and power storage and maintenance facilities. How can Farm Bureau work with energy companies, local governments and rural communities to increase domestic energy production, minimize loss of agricultural land and protect private property rights?

Marketing Meeting

Where: CCFB Auditorium

When: August 6th, 6:00pm

Illini FS will be speaking about input markets and where they see them going in the future.

Greg Johnson with TGM will also be discussing Grain Markets

Marketing Meeting

Where: CCFB Auditorium

When: August 26th 6pm-8pm

Randy Bolen and Travis Spohr with Illinois Commodities Cooperation have prepared a special presentation for protecting yourself against unpleasant markets.

planting a legacy



CCFBFOUNDATION.COM

CCFBFOUNDATION

CCFB_FOUNDATION



LINDSEY ADEN

William & Kathryn Henderson Graduate Student Scholarship
University of Illinois



MARIE BAXLEY

The Atkins Group Scholarship
Murray State University



KEAGAN BUSBOOM

Christian Brothers Farms Memorial Scholarship
Purdue University



EVERETT CARLSON

Ben Louis Memorial Scholarship
Iowa State University



JAMA CRAIG

Duane Ehler Memorial Scholarship
Parkland Pathways to Illinois



JACKSON CRAIG

Birmingham Family Farm Scholarship
University of Illinois



CAMPBELL CRUSE

Jack & Marjorie Richmond Memorial Scholarship
University of Illinois



TAYLOR DIETZ

Kathryn Luther-Henderson Memorial Scholarship
Iowa State University



SHANNON FLAVIN

The Andersons Scholarship & Vincent O Greene Memorial Scholarship
University of Illinois



KAMRYN FROST

Sun Prairie Seeds Scholarship
University of Illinois



MARAH GILBERT

Roger Gish Memorial Scholarship
University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point



GRACE GOLDENSTEIN

Jennifer & Jackie Esworthy Memorial Scholarship
Parkland College



LUKE GORDON

Gifford Lions Club Scholarship
University of Illinois



ALYSSA HAMILTON

Chet & Margaret Hiser Memorial Scholarship
University of Illinois



GWENDOLYN HAPP

Longview Bank Scholarship
Parkland College



HALLIE HARMS

Murray Family Scholarship
Parkland Pathways to Illinois



CALE HORSCH

Richard & Gloria Rayburn Scholarship
Heidelberg University



COOPER JAY

Duane Strunk Memorial Scholarship
Parkland Pathways to Illinois



DELANEY KAMRADT

Sue & Joe Summerville Scholarship
University of Illinois



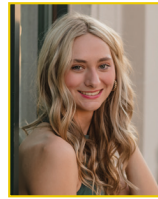
KATHERINE LANDERS

Marie Sitts Mitchell Memorial Scholarship
University of Illinois



MAKAYLA LEARNED

Gifford State Bank Scholarship
Southern Illinois University



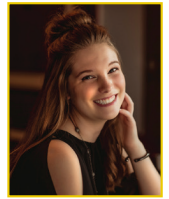
LOGAN LILLARD

Leslie Arps Memorial Scholarship
Lake Land College



ALEXIS MURRAY

Farm Credit Illinois Scholarship
Parkland Pathways to Illinois



AMELIA NELSON

Clarence & Alma Rayburn Memorial Scholarship
University of Illinois



JACKSON PLACE

Gary Grace Memorial Scholarship
University of Illinois



AUBREA RHODES

Champaign Women's Club Scholarship
Parkland College



AUBREY SCHAEFER

Thomas Hausman Memorial Scholarship
Illinois State University



FELICITY SCHAEFER

Gail Broadie Scholarship
Purdue University



JOHANNA SCHMITZ

CCFB 100th Anniversary Scholarship
University of Illinois



OLIVIA SHIKE

Captain Hank Warfel Memorial Scholarship
Blackhawk East



TESSA SMITH

Marguerite Winston Scholarship
Purdue University



RAENA STIERWALT

Louis Schwing Scholarship
Parkland Pathways to Illinois



SOPHIA STIERWALT

CCFB President's Scholarship
University of Illinois



KALLIE STUTSMAN

William T. Henderson Memorial Horticulture Scholarship
University of Missouri



MAE THOMAS

Clema Parker Memorial Scholarship
University of Illinois



MARA TURNER

Champaign County Farm Bureau Scholarship
Lake Land College



DESTINY WILLIAMSON

Mildred Luther Memorial Scholarship
University of Illinois



RACHEL WILSON

Dale Cochran Illinois Foundation Seeds Scholarship
University of Illinois



ABBY WOOLCOTT

CCFB Women's Committee Scholarship
Parkland Pathways to Illinois



MITCHELL WRIGHT

Murray Seed Scholarship
Parkland Pathways to Illinois



DYLAN ZWILLING

Leslie Mitchell Memorial Scholarship
Parkland Pathways to Illinois

2024 CCFB FOUNDATION

Scholarship Recipients

thank you

FOR SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE



**KORY KRAUS,
GENERAL MANAGER**

Corn Plant Development. After the silks have turned brown, the corn kernels begin a period of rapid dry matter accumulation or seed fill. The kernels are approximately 85% moisture, and this percentage will gradually decline from now until harvest. At this stage of development, the corn plant has satisfied over 85% of its potassium needs, 75% of its nitrogen, and 60% of its phosphorus requirements. Visit <https://access.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.2134/agronj2012.0352> for more information about corn nutrient uptake at different growth stages.

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

Unfilled ear tips are commonly the result of dry weather, cloudy days after pollination, nitrogen shortage, insect feeding, or excessive plant populations. As the ears dry down, the tips shrink and become less noticeable. Significant kernel abortion at the ear tips suggests a loss of top-end yield.

Random short, late-pollinating corn plants are usually the outcome of early-season disease, insect feeding, uneven emergence. Poor early root or seedling growth is the likely cause. Any early season injury to the young seedling's primary root system or food reserves (endosperm) may have resulted in a re-focus of the limited energy stored in the seed rather than on normal overall development. Silks may emerge late on these small plants resulting in incomplete pollination or increased silk clipping pressure from local insect populations (fresh late-emerging silks are more attractive to silk-clipping insects).

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

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

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

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

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

Firing of a corn plant indicates plant roots cannot supply enough nitrogen for grain fill, whether from an inadequate supply of available nitrogen or a restricted root system caused by soil compaction, dry weather, or insect root feeding. The plant cannibalizes itself by translocating nitrogen from the older leaf tissue and stalk to the developing ear to compensate for the deficiency. Extensive movement of nutrients out of the older plant parts (lower leaves, stalk, and roots) after pollination may result in lower stalk quality at harvest, increasing the chances for stalk rots.

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

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

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



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

Significant loss of leaf area prior to physiological maturity may promote stalk rots. Fields with a significant number of lesions above the ear should be monitored for standability as harvest ap-

proaches. Hybrids differ in their ability to resist various leaf diseases. Contact your local Illini FS Crop Specialist for information that will help select hybrids for the 2025 growing season.

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

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

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

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

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

Weed Management – This year, residual herbicides may not have performed as expected because of abnormal conditions during early vegetative growth for both corn and soybeans that may have been from wetter or even drier soils. This is simply because of excess or lack of soil moisture to activate residual herbicides. In general, it takes many of the commonly used residual herbicides that are in the Group 15 classification approximately ½ to 1" of rainfall within 10 days of application for effective control of problematic weeds. In many popular soybean trait platforms that utilize approved formulations 2,4-D, glyphosate and glufosinate struggle when only one approved herbicide is utilized to control key weeds like common waterhemp. However, this holds true when trying to control difficult emerged weeds, and it's always best to control them with multiple effective sites of action. The most consistent control this year has been from programs that utilize approved formulations of 2,4-D and glufosinate with the appropriate approved adjuvants. This year has also demonstrated that it is just as crucial that the right products are in the tank, but application equipment and the right gallons per acre of the carrier can also be utilized. One-pass herbicide programs this year have also greatly suffered because of how long it took for crop canopy and the general lack of activation of residual herbicides. The main reason why one pass herbicide application often fails is because there is too much weed pressure for a single application to control troublesome weed species effectively. Then, by the time it is recognized, the application fails many times, and the size of the corn crop doesn't allow for effective application.

Cover Crops – Illini FS had very successful program the past two years that includes custom seeding of cereal rye ahead of soybean planting in the fall once corn harvest is complete. To learn more about the program details please follow the QR code below of contact Drew Hewitt at 217-751-2751.

If growers or readers of this newsletter have questions or concerns about management strategies for this year, Illini FS or I would welcome the opportunity to partner with you. If readers want to contact me personally, please utilize my contact information below.

*Eric Beckett, CCA 4RNMS
Field Agronomist, Illini FS
217-318-9100
ebeckett@illinifs.com*



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

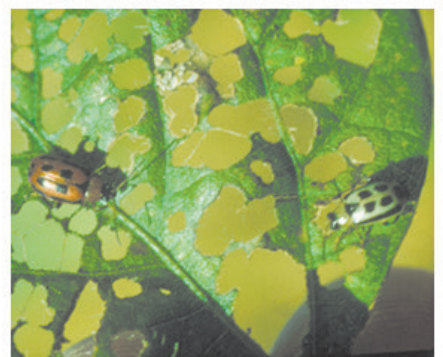


Figure 4. Bean Leaf Beetles feeding on soybean leaf. Photo by John Obermeyer

COVER CROP PROGRAM

Purpose
To help our producers evaluate the economic and environmental benefits of making cover crops part of a field management system

Details

- Timely seeding of cereal rye ahead of soybeans by Illini FS
- Recommendations for termination of cover crops
- Recommendations for planting in next crop year

Call Drew Hewitt at 217-751-2751 with any questions

Contact your Illini FS Crop Specialist for more details or scan our QR code to fill out the information request form at www.illinifs.com/Products-Services/Agriculture

Illini FS retains the right to cancel or alter the program and is not responsible for management beyond seeding. Illini FS is not responsible for any cost associated with cost of terminating the cover crops or any other control measures.

www.illinifs.com

SCAN ME

INNOVATIVE AGRONOMICS



Nathan Hubbard
COUNTRY Financial
Agency Manager



Rhonda Wagner
Administrative Assistant
Champaign Agency



Dan Punkay
217-328-0023



Bret Kroencke
217-359-9391



Keith Garrett
217-485-3010



Kolby Jackson
217-586-5030



Austin Beaty
217-352-2652

Public Adjusters and Your Insurance Claim

by Kristin Smith

From a hailstorm to a catastrophe like a hurricane or wildfire, public adjusters often solicit business after weather events. These independent adjusters aren't associated with your insurance company, but you can hire them to help with a loss, schedule inspections of damaged property and negotiate the settlement amount with your insurance provider. But should you?



Chris Greenwold
217-355-8675

When considering whether to hire a public adjuster, keep these things in mind:

- Always check an adjuster's qualifications with the department of insurance in your state. Many states require public adjusters to be licensed.
- Watch out for individuals going door-to-door using high pressure sales tactics after a storm.
- Ask about fees and get a written contract that includes a detailed list of the repair work to be done, along with costs, materials, start and completion dates, and warranty information.
- Carefully read the contract terms and never sign a contract you don't understand.
- Know how long you have to cancel the contract if you change your mind.
- Don't provide any type of payment before the work is completed and inspected.
- Avoid public adjusters that claim to be part of a government agency.
- Be mindful of potential conflicts that may prevent the public adjuster from doing their best for you. For example, ownership or association with a contractor hired to do repairs.



Robert Lalumendier
217-352-3341



Jordan McDaniel
217-352-9817

If you decide to move forward with a public adjuster, know that:

- Adding parties to the claim process can potentially add time and cost to your settlement.
- An adjuster's fee may be taken from your settlement proceeds.
- It may take longer to get your settlement if the check is issued to both you and your public adjuster.



Steve Derry
217-352-2655



Barry Karuzis
217-352-4555

Before the unexpected happens, take some time to review your current insurance policies so you know what is, and isn't, included in your coverage. Your agent will be able to walk you through the details. Hiring a public adjuster is your decision but do your research first and be aware of your options. The more you know about your policies, the better you can protect yourself.



Andrew Deedrich
217-359-3941



Tanna Suits
217-892-4479



Tony Wesselman
217-352-3466



Scott Jackson
217-359-9335



Tim Bridges
217-586-6170



Dawn Babb
217-892-4479



Tim Osterbur
217-469-2033

Drones Take Off In Agriculture

Most have seen those cool, little drones that hover like hummingbirds to capture bird's-eye images at festivals, weddings and sporting events. In agriculture, these unmanned aerial vehicles survey cattle, monitor plant health, locate wind-damaged crops and define field boundaries.

But check out the big brother: A drone with a footprint the size of a small SUV and the weight-holding capacity that could (but shouldn't) carry a small adult. These high-tech, spider-like pieces of technology rank among the must-see items at farm shows, where companies like my husband's deliver first-hand accounts of the drone's ability to use next-level technology to apply liquid products of herbicides, fungicides and biologicals and dry products of cover crop seeds and granular fertilizers.

As drones start to grow in the agricultural space, they are gleaming second glances from a generation with thumbs skilled enough to message on phones without auto-correction and power game controllers with precision. Their minds carry a keen desire to use technology to make jobs better, easier and more accurate while bringing excitement and new-age thinking to age-old farm tasks.

Drones are attracting young people who love technology to an industry that they misinterpreted as just for farmers. Meanwhile, these large-capacity drones are giving next-generation farm kids a way to generate income to sup-



port the family farm's growth with a sideline gig as a licensed, for-hire drone application business. It's another exciting example of innovation in agriculture.

The capacity currently does not match that of its rubber-tired counterpart but drones can still operate when field conditions are muddy. It needs more fill-ups, requires frequent battery swaps and licensing may overwhelm newbies, though it's attainable. The future holds promise for larger storage capacity, longer battery life and swarm technology that allows multiple drones to work in concert to complete a task. The devices seem a prime candidate to deliver see-and-spray technology for weed control, and the potential is untapped in field boundary generation, crop indexing and thermal imaging.

In our farm's wheat fields this spring, a drone corrected a ground rig's mis-applied batch of dry fertilizer. Using a satellite-guided prescription written to deliver fertilizer only on the field's under-nourished areas, the drone's fully autonomous application noticeably improved the plant health within the week. So, we hired the drone to spray fungicide. It applied the product without leaving a track in the wheat as our own sprayer would have. The result: a fantastic grain yield and a barn full of bright yellow straw bales.

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



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

(USPS 099-840)
801 N. Country Fair Drive, Ste. A, Champaign, IL 61821
Published Monthly by the
Champaign County Farm Bureau
801 N. Country Fair Drive, Ste. A,
Champaign, IL 61821

SUBSCRIPTION RATE -- \$3 PER YEAR
Periodicals Postage Paid at Champaign
(ISSN 1078-2966)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to "Farm Bureau News" 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Ste. A, Champaign IL 61821-2492

OFFICERS

Doug Downs, Ayers..... President
Bob Barker, Champaign..... 1st Vice-President
Jason Watson, Crittenden..... 2nd Vice-President
Casey Hettinger, Philo..... Secretary
Greg Johnson, Rantoul..... Treasurer

Ayers-Doug Downs; Brown-Mark Hortin; Champaign-Bob Barker; Colfax-Kaitlyn Sharp; Compromise-Jeff Suits; Condit-Meg Hansens; Crittenden-Jason Watson; East Bend-Maynard Birkey; Harwood/Kerr-Josiah Hesterberg; Hensley-Mark Jones; Ludlow-Matt Schluter; Mahomet-Mike Litchfield; Newcomb-Craig Anderson; Ogdan-Layne Ingram; Pesotum-Lucas Meharry; Philo-Casey Hettinger; Rantoul-Greg Johnson; Raymond-Parker Smith; Sadorus-Ryan Musson; Scott-Byron Mackey; Sidney-Daniel Herriott; Somer-Adam Sharp; South Homer-Michael Wendling; Stanton-Les Siuts; St. Joseph - Greg Knott; Tolono-Jeff Fisher; Urbana- Chandler Bruns; Marketing-Joe Burke; Prime Timers-Gerald Henry; Women's Committee Co-Chair-Paulette Brock; Women's Committee Co-Chair-Ronda Scott

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Hours: Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Manager - Bailey Edenburn
Assistant Manager - Lucas Stark
Communications Director - Lesley Gooding
Administrative Assistant - Debbie Styan
Membership & Outreach Coordinator - Emily Clr
Foundation Director - Kirk Buita
Ag in the Classroom Director - Sarah Kaper
Ag in the Classroom Educator - Julie Adcock

Contact us at (217) 352-5235
www.ccfarmbureau.com

COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY

Please take a few moments to fill out this survey. One lucky person will win a \$100 gift card to a restaurant of their choice!

SLOW DOWN

BACK TO SCHOOL MEANS SHARING THE ROAD

- WATCH FOR DARTING CHILDREN
- OBSERVE SCHOOL ZONE SPEEDS
- ALWAYS STOP FOR A SCHOOL BUS THAT HAS STOPPED

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU Farm, Family, Food.

Logos include: Chic n' Threads, BeckTech (A Barbeck Company), Shop by Knight (Children's Boutique), Kettle Korn Stop, Sleepy Creek Vineyards, Interstate (All Battery Center), Blossom Basket Florist, Lincoln Street Lounge (Restaurant & Bar), The Apple Dumplin (Urbana, Illinois), A.G. Electric (Commercial, Residential, Ag), Sidney Dairy Barn, Champaign County Farm Bureau, Local Member Benefits, ESC (Excavation, Septic, Concrete), Charlie's Grub & Suds, Buford's Pub, Refinery (Contractors Supply), Route 45 Wayside (Pesotum, IL Est. 2007), Red Wing Shoes, Beyond Bonded (Permanent Jewelry), Don's Auto Center, Inc., Country Squire Cleaners, Culver's (Frozen Custard Butterburgers), Sherwin Williams, and The Rural Rose.

Champaign County Farm Bureau Members In Action!



WOMEN'S COMMITTEE RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Loretta Stoerger

Choco-Chip Pan Cookies

Ingredients

- 2 ¼ cups sifted flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup butter, softened
- ¾ cup sugar
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1 – 12 oz. package choco-chips
- 1 cup nuts (optional)

Directions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees
In small bowl, combine flour, baking soda, and salt.
In large bowl combine butter, sugar, brown sugar, and vanilla; beat until creamy.
Beat in eggs
Gradually add flour mixture – mix well.
Stir in choco-chips and nuts.
Spread into greased 12 X 10 X 1 baking pan.
Bake 375 degrees for 20 minutes or until done.

The Champaign County Farm Bureau (CCFB) has been granted American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding to increase the utilization and grow understanding of the use of cover crops in Champaign County. In partnership with the Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) & the Illinois Nutrient Research Council (NREC), the CCFB will be administering the Champaign County Cover Crop Initiative (CCCCI)

THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY COVER CROP INITIATIVE WILL:

1. Incentivize farmers for costs up to \$33 per acre of cover crops planted
2. Incentivize a maximum of 2,500 acres for the 2024-2025 growing season
3. Be open to all farmers using cover crops and to all size of operations; however, the program will give preference to farmers utilizing cover crops for the first time and to small farming operations
4. Provide notification to farmers of their acceptance in the program by no later than Sept. 20th of each year
5. Randomly spot check 20% of farmers participating in the program to verify planted acres, seed varieties planted, and seeding rate
6. Make payment to the farmer or landowner will be made after verification is complete and will be completed by February of the following year at the latest. (ex. 2024 cover crop acres will be paid by Feb. 2025 at the latest)
7. Provide educational opportunities for all Champaign Co. farmers about best management practices for cover crop usage

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. An application must be completed in either electronic form or by hard copy and received by CCFB staff at 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Champaign, IL 61821 by **Sept. 6th** of each year of participation
2. Agronomic details including: planting date, variety planted, and seeding rate must be provided to the CCFB office by **Dec. 1st** of the planting season
3. Producers must cooperate fully with CCFB staff if randomly selected for additional verification purposes

The CCFB and its partners do not guarantee that receiving funds in one year will guarantee acceptance to the program in subsequent years. Furthermore, the CCFB takes no responsibility for the success or failure of individual producer's cover crops, nor any resulting agronomic or land issues that might result from cover crop usage.