

Community is the Reason for the Season

How Champaign County Raised Student Shannon Flavin Sprouted a Fall Attraction from an FFA Project

It was during the spring of 2016 when my dad encouraged me to plant my first pumpkin crop that I began to realize my passion for the agricultural industry and how I could play my unique role within it. I have always been driven by the value of hard work which has profoundly influenced me to become the rustic, diligent girl behind Country Bumpkin Pumpkins. Thanks to my dad's encouragement when I was fourteen to begin growing pumpkins for my FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience project, I got an early start on learning about pumpkin production and am currently in my ninth season. To this day, my dad has been a key team member in keeping the pumpkin patch running smoothly for everyone to enjoy.

In my first growing season as an eighth-grader, I grew a half acre of pumpkins with a handful of varieties and marketed them through the honor system on a rack wagon at the farm. When I became a member of Unity High School FFA, I loaded up a trailer and sold pumpkins in Tolono at Casey's on days I wasn't playing a sport or at a school event. My dad or brother would drive the trailer for me to town until I turned sixteen, but once I could drive myself, I added on deliveries, custom displays, and fall cleanup for local homes and businesses. Throughout high school, I had a pumpkin stand set up by the road on our farm for customers to shop anytime on the honor system.

Many people think of pumpkins in the fall, but it's important to remember producing pumpkins is a year-round task.



Throughout the winter months, I brainstorm and make decisions for the upcoming crop to be planted at the beginning of June. During the summer I monitor the patch for diseases, weeds, and insects. In the fall I set up the farm to be filled with many joyful colors and pick pumpkins a couple times a week to keep inventory stocked. Before I know it, the process starts all over again. My year-round project diligence led me to be named the Illinois FFA State Proficiency Award Winner in Vegetable Production in 2021 and earn my American FFA Degree, the highest achievable in the FFA organization, in 2022. In the fall of 2021, I started college at the University of Illinois to major in Crop Science and minor in Food & Agribusiness Management. I ramped up my offerings from 35 varieties to nearly 100 in one year, and customers came to know me as the pumpkin patch with the most unique varieties around. I began primarily selling my produce at my family's farm in Ivesdale and occasionally attending fall markets.

My discovered passion for cultivating and marketing pumpkins led to annual expansion in both size and popularity. Today as a senior in college, I grow 115 pumpkin, squash, and gourd varieties to load the farm with all shapes, sizes, textures, and colors. Customers love to ask me which variety is my favorite, but the truth is I offer so many unique varieties that it's hard to pick just one.

Thanks to my supportive family, friends, and community, the singular rack wagon has now expanded to a pumpkin patch where customers can pick from offerings of pumpkins, squash, gourds, straw, mums, and corn shocks. One of my absolute favorite things is connecting the community to agriculture through staying

true to my growth-minded, rustic self. Fall is a great season to spread joy in the community, and I'm glad to be able to do so through attending local fall events and interacting with my great customers. It's rewarding to drive around in my surrounding communities and see the beautiful displays everyone puts together from products from our farm. Overall, I do what I do to spread joy in communities through my love for fall and pumpkins!

The Farm Details:

The farm is located twenty miles south-west of Champaign at 228 CR 700 N, Ivesdale, IL 61851. It is open dawn to dusk every day through Halloween and on the honor system, so bring cash or check.



Custom Displays:

I work with local homes and businesses to set up unique displays with pumpkins, mums, corn shocks, and straw bales. To make the process seamless, message me with pictures of the location, your address and price range, a desired color scheme, and any other project description needed for me to get started. Looking toward the end of the season, I also offer affordable fall decor pickup so you don't have to worry about a thing! To stay up to date with Country Bumpkin Pumpkins, visit Country Bumpkin Pumpkins on Facebook or Instagram where I actively tell my story and encourage the community to burst with fall joy.

- Shannon Flavin, University of Illinois Student and Champaign County Farm Bureau Scholarship Recipient

Rural Road Safety

during harvest season

1. Remain Alert
2. Watch for Slow-Moving Vehicles
3. Be Patient
4. Slow Down
5. Maintain a Safe Following Distance
6. Pass With Caution
7. Share the Road Safely

www.ilfb.org/safetyandhealth



October Report



President, Doug Downs

It's the time of year when you pick up your pumpkin spice latte, brown sugar and cinnamon frappe, pumpkin cake donut, or whatever high caloric seasonal treat and expect to see the farm bureau president wishing you a "safe and bountiful harvest season" in the monthly newsletter. Although I do hope that's the case, I've vowed to keep substance in this space. I also must run this all past my wife, she's looking at me right now, waiting for me to finish this so she can "proof read" it. "How are you going to top last months" she just asked. Well, I probably won't. But here's to some disappointment.

Elections are upon us, and by the time you read this, it's hard telling what other abnormality will happen in this election cycle. As I write this, the "news" is abuzz with the second assassination attempt on the former president. I'm not picking on either side here.... I've vowed to not go on a rant. It won't do any good anyway. I've asked myself a lot of questions this past summer, most of them I know the answer to, but some of them I don't. Like "what could they be thinking putting that person up there for that position?" Or "Do you really expect me to believe that? Do you really think I'm that dumb?" This is nothing new. But this year seems beyond belief.

If you are questioning any candidates stand when it comes to agriculture, Farm Bureau can help you sift through all that. During each general election cycle, Illinois Farm Bureau compiles data and actually gives candidates a "friend of agriculture" nod and also reviews candidates voting records. Farm Bureau can also show you the candidates who are simply not showing up to vote and what their voting record is. You should really look at your local representatives voting record. Contact our office and they can lead you to all this information.

Sincerely,
Doug Downs

Prime Timers

October 10, 2024

Speaker

Bailey Conrady, CCFB Manager

Topic- Germany Trip

Entertainment

Konnie Christ and Haley Christ

\$8 per person/Fried Chicken Buffet

No Walk-Ins

Please call to reserve your spot by October 7

CCFB Office - 217-352-5235

CCFB Calendar of Events

October 2024

October 10 Prime Timers 10:00 a.m.

October 14 Women's Committee 9:30 a.m.

Several committee DO NOT meet during the month of October due to harvest.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Kay Place

Cucumber Salad

Ingredients

- ½ Cup Sour Cream
- ½ Teaspoon Salt
- 1 Tablespoon Vinegar
- 1 Tablespoon Sugar
- 1 Cucumber (long)
- Chopped onion as you like



Directions

Mix all together and refrigerate

Women's Committee Calendar

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

Calendar of Events

*October 14, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m.

CCFB Auditorium

Speaker - Monticello Railway Museum.

Lunch - Cookout with Lucas Stark cooking our meat. Please bring a side dish to share with everyone.

8VOTE24

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER 26 Early voting begins, vote by mail ballots mailed

OCTOBER 28 Last day for vote by mail application through mail

OCTOBER 8 Last day for regular voter registration

NOVEMBER 4 Last day for early voting and in-person vote by mail applications

OCTOBER 9 Grace period registration and voting begins

NOVEMBER 5 General Election Day

OCTOBER 20 Last day for online voter registration



Last Call!

Champaign County Farm Bureau Trip

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



Applications Now Available for 2025

Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow

Are you, or someone you know, ready to take the next step in their leadership development? The Illinois Farm Bureau has a program to help with that. The Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) provides participants with the tools they need to reach their full potential and emerge as a leader in agriculture. Whether you serve on your county Farm Bureau board, county Farm Bureau committee, or a leader in agribusiness or your local community, you'll benefit from ALOT just as the over 1,200 previous graduates have.

Classroom studies cover leadership, communication & professional skills, political process, agricultural economics, and global issues, and are taught by experts in a variety of fields. Classes will be conducted over a seven-week period in a different region of the state each year, so there's sure to be one near you.

In 2025, there will be seven weekly sessions held across Northwestern Illinois, Springfield, and Bloomington, Illinois. The seven-week program includes four overnight sessions, two single-day sessions, and one virtual session.

The ALOT program is limited to 25 participants, who are chosen following *interviews conducted on December 3rd via Zoom* by the ALOT advisory committee. There is an \$800 tuition fee, which includes meals, lodging, and instructional materials.

Applications are available online at www.ilfb.org/alot and are due by November 1st. For more information about the program visit www.ilfb.org/alot or contact Champaign County Farm Bureau at 217-352-5235 or the IFB Training and Development Department at 309-557-2038.

2025 Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
November 1st

INTERVIEW DATE:
December 3rd
(Zoom)

Program Dates:
February 4th-5th • February 11th • February 18th-19th
February 25th-26th • March 4th • March 11th • March 19th-20th

The 2025 program will take place in Northwestern Illinois

ALOT
AGRICULTURAL LEADERS OF TOMORROW

planting a legacy



CCFBFOUNDATION.COM | CCFBFOUNDATION | CCFB_FOUNDATION

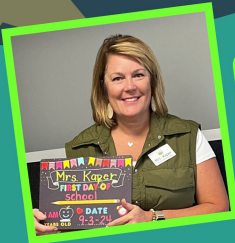
AG in the Classroom

24-25



Ag in the Classroom provides hands-on learning opportunities that represent our industry in a truthful and modern way. Lessons are suited for grades preK-8th

Connect with us: QR code, ccfbfoundation.com, Facebook at Champaign County Ag in the Classroom or email sarah@ccfarmbureau.com or julie@ccfarmbureau.com



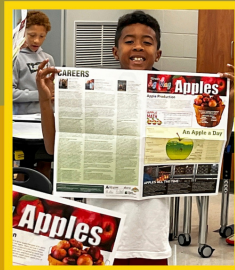
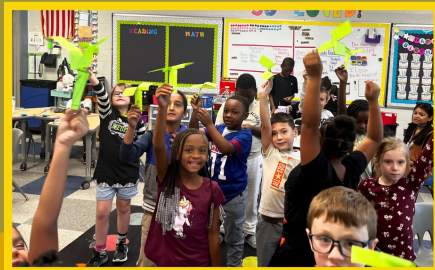
BACK TO SCHOOL



Mrs. Kaper and Mrs. Adcock returned to the classroom and visited 28 schools in September.

THE APPLE TEAM

In September, students learned the impact an apple had on history. We discovered Johnny Appleseed propagated trees from seeds, Maria Ann Smith grafted a new apple tree known as the Granny Smith, and Sir Isaac Newton's defined the law of gravity from an apple falling. Students then observed the law of gravity with apple-copters.



WCIA 3

Ag in the Classroom on WCIA 3 has resumed regular programming with lessons on Adopt-a-Cow, the Olympics, and so much more. Check us out on Monday mornings at 6:30am and 9am.



Mrs. Kaper helps Jacob Dickey find information on www.wherismymilkfrom.com

TOWER GARDEN

New teachers are utilizing the Tower Gardens and receiving training on how to operate the equipment and lesson ideas to implement in their classroom.



We're Making A BIG IMPACT!

As a member of the agricultural community, you know the value of an informed consumer. With each generation, the public becomes more and more disengaged from their agricultural roots. At the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation our job is to plant seeds of knowledge in the kids of Champaign County through Ag in the Classroom.

Champaign County Ag in the Classroom reaches 3,000+ students every single month, often as their first real connection to the world of agriculture. We don't just teach; we show today's kids why they can trust our farmers!

All of this is possible because people like you believe that every student should be grounded in agriculture. This October/November, please consider a donation to the Grounded in Ag Campaign to help us continue this important outreach.

We are honored to be your voice in classrooms, assemblies, field trips, and more! With your help we can inspire the next generation of informed, engaged, and passionate advocates for agriculture!

Donate to Grounded in Ag!

Online: www.ccfbfoundation.com/grounded

Mail: CCFB Foundation
801 N. Country Fair Dr. - Suite A
Champaign, IL 61821

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY AG IN THE CLASSROOM



- Hands-On STEM Learning Experiences in the Classroom that Educate about Agriculture in a Truthful and Modern Way
- Free Lessons and Resources for Champaign County Teachers
- Up-To-Date Website with Digital "Ag-Tivities" and Links to Resources
- Hydroponic Garden Towers and Incubators for Loan
- Weekly Ag in the Classroom Lessons on WCIA Morning Show

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

Ag Careers	Farmers in the Community	Reindeer
Apples	Football and Ag	Renewable Energy
Beef	Gardening	Seeds
Bio Fuels	Leaders in Agriculture	Soil & Soil Health
Bio Security	Milk Plastic	Soy Plastic
Bio-Technology	Nutrition	Simple and Complex Machines on the Farm
Busy Bees	Pollinators	Strawberries
Conservation	Pork	Wheat
Corn	Poultry	
Dairy	Pumpkins	
Embryology		
Farm Safety		



HELP CHAMPAIGN COUNTY AG IN THE CLASSROOM CONTINUE TO IMPACT OUR STUDENTS!

DONATE TO THE CCFB FOUNDATION'S GROUNDED IN AG CAMPAIGN TODAY!
WWW.CCFBFOUNDATION.COM

WHERE WE'VE BEEN

- CHAMPAIGN SCHOOLS
 - Barkskill Elementary
 - Booker T Washington STEM Academy
 - Bottlenfield Elementary
 - Carrie Busby Elementary
 - Dr. Howard Elementary
 - International Prep Academy
 - Kenwood Elementary
 - Robeson Elementary
 - Stratton Academy of the Arts
 - Westview Elementary
- FISHER GRADE SCHOOL
- GIFFORD GRADE SCHOOL
- HERITAGE GRADE SCHOOL
- HOLY CROSS
- JUDAH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
- LITTLE HEARTS & HANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- LUDLOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- MAHOMET-SEYMOUR SCHOOLS
 - Lincoln Trail Elementary
 - Middletown Prairie Elementary
- PRAIRIEVIEW-06DEN
 - North Elementary
 - South Elementary
- RANTOUL CITY SCHOOLS
 - Eastlawn Elementary
 - Pleasant Acres Elementary
 - Broadmeadow Elementary
 - Northview Elementary
- SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL
- SAINT MALACHY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- SAINT MATTHEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- ST. THOMAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- THOMASBORO GRADE SCHOOL
- UNITY SCHOOLS
 - East Elementary
 - West Elementary
- URBANA SCHOOLS
 - Dr. Williams Elementary
 - Local Elementary
 - Martin Luther King Elementary
 - Thomas Paine Elementary
 - Urbana Early Childhood Center
 - Tankee Ridge Elementary

3,000+ Students per Month Impacted



**KORY KRAUS,
GENERAL MANAGER**

In last month's newsletter, I discussed preharvest scouting efforts to gain insights, if nothing else, to help prioritize harvest to maximize harvestable yield. Now that harvest is well underway for much of the area, we are gaining insights into how our 2024 crop will perform. As we go through harvest, it may be worth the time to keep a notebook in the cab of the combine and, if nothing else, record a few thoughts on the field performance of any items that worked well or areas for improvement.

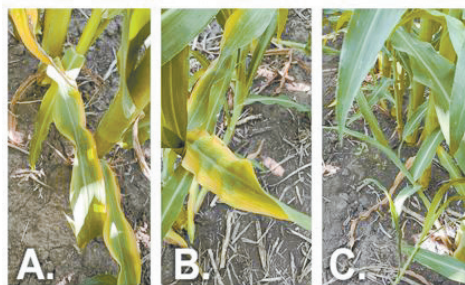
Phosphorus and Potassium Applications

One item I know that may be on the minds of many growers is the item with low grain prices and high input prices, such as fertilizer. It may be a natural reaction that, in times of high fertilizer prices, cut back for the 2025 growing season. This may be an appropriate item to consider for some fields, but it may come with some risk for the following year's crop, depending on current soil test levels and field conditions next year that might affect root growth. Most soils in EC IL will be classified as medium to heavy-textured soils. If soil test levels currently exceed 25-30 ppm for P and 150-175 ppm for K, it may pose a low risk for yield loss in 2025. However, this reward of investing in soil fertility and building soil test levels does not come without some risk if soil fertility rates are reduced for the 2025 growing season. The main concern is if root growth becomes restricted for any reason next year, it may translate into nutrient deficiencies even though soil fertility may be adequate. Many of the nutrient deficiencies I witnessed this year generally fell into two categories, not including nitrogen.

- 1. Restricted Root Growth**—Generally, some compaction was generated early in the season that prevented normal root growth. Examples may include soil compaction generated from either tillage or planting equipment, resulting in subsurface compaction layers and sidewall compaction in many cases. Evidence of restricted root growth may be visible from "Tomahawk Roots," pancaking of plant roots, or horizontal root growth.
- 2. Unrealized need for key nutrients such as Sulfur, Boron, and Zinc.** Until recent years, soil organic matter and managing soil pH to a range of 6.2 – 6.7 have been key to providing crops with these key nutrients. However, with the acceleration of modern hybrids and varieties along with clean air acts, soil OM can't keep up with these demands, and the need to supply these nutrients is in actual demand.

Field conditions that promote restricted root growth should be avoided. Plant roots generally take up nutrients through at least one mechanism, but often more than one process.

- 1. Mass Flow** – movement of dissolved nutrients into the plant as the plant up takes water for transpiration, most all nutrients are taken up in this manor except phosphorus.
- 2. Diffusion** – movement of nutrients to the root interception in response to a concentration gradient. High concentration to low concentration to form an equilibrium. Key for P, K, S, Fe, and Zn.
- 3. Root Interception** – root growth must occur to intercept soil colloids that contain nutrients for absorption. This is a key pathway for calcium and magnesium but minor for other nutrients taken up in this pathway. Ca, Mg, Fe, Mn, and Zinc may all be taken up through root interception.

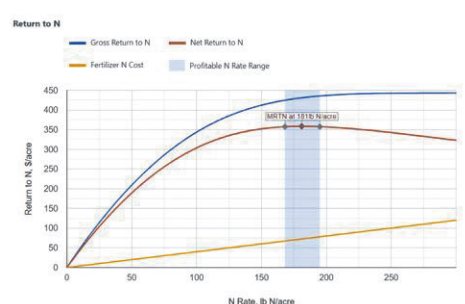


In conclusion, anything that restricts root growth or movement of roots and the flow of water throughout the soil will also prevent the movement or interception of key plant nutrients. A key example I witnessed many times this year, from in-season nutrient testing to field scouting, was potassium. In every case I witnessed potassium foliar deficiency symptoms this year, soil test levels were adequate. Restricted root growth of some sort was the root cause of potassium not making its way into the plant. If soil fertility is reduced in 2024 and another wet spring, real nutrient deficiencies may be observed later into the season as plant roots cannot uptake adequate amounts of potassium and other essential plant nutrients.



Nitrogen Management

Nitrogen is one other key plant nutrient that may need to be addressed to ensure ROI in 2025. Suppose growers have not considered using the Corn Nitrogen Rate Calculator. In that case, this year may be the year to utilize this publicly available tool at the following web address. www.cornnratecalc.org This tool finds the Maximum Return to N and the Most Profitable N Rate or MRTN. The tool will calculate the optimum rate by setting a few parameters: location, crop rotation,



n source, n price/ton, and grain selling price. This may be cost savings for growers that may be applying excessive rates of N when economics are considered. This tool has been vetted with over a decade of field-scale research trials across the Midwest. Other items to consider with nitrogen applications are taking advantage of cheaper N prices from anhydrous ammonia but applying no more than 1/3 to 1/2 of the total need in fall with nitrogen stabilizers. Then, next spring, apply the remaining amount in-season prior to rapid uptake that occurs mid to late vegetative growth in corn and utilize stabilizers in-season to protect against loss that might arise from leaching or volatilization of nitrogen that may be in vulnerable forms.

Weed Control

Shifting gears to weed control is a real issue for many corn and soybean fields this fall, especially for soybean fields. Because of such an issue for some soybean fields, a preharvest aide of a paraquat-containing herbicide application is required to prevent problems with the harvestability of the soybean crop. I will ask growers that find fields at harvest with less than desirable weed control if they control the controllable and manage items out of our control, such as environmental conditions at the time of application. Controllable include effective tank mix partners to control targeted weeds, proper adjuvant selection, and nozzle selection, which are a few examples of items in our control. Whereas temperature and humidity are out of our control, did we recognize these conditions and make appropriate changes to spray application to maximize herbicide effectiveness? Below are a few items to consider when making seed and crop protection decisions for 2025.

- 1. Some soybean herbicide trait platforms advertise a 2.7 bu/A advantage over other trait platforms. Remember that weeds are not controlled and that bu/A advantage quickly goes away.** Research from many universities in the US and Canada has documented over many years that if post-herbicide applications do not effectively control weeds, yield reductions may be as high as 20 bu/A. The graph below illustrates the importance of starting free from weeds in soybeans. This research was from Michigan State University.

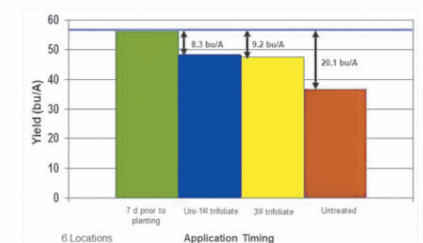


Figure 1. Soybean yield due to delayed burndown herbicide applications. Burndown applications were made seven days prior to planting at 100 lb/A (0-herbicide soybean) and 100 lb/A (30-herbicide soybean).

- 2. Another item to consider is what is the field tolerances of other herbicides such as herbicides from Group 14 or PPO, metribuzin, and even the STS trait that improves tolerances to ALS or Group 2 herbicides.** Suppose soybean varieties are known to have high field tolerance to any of the previously mentioned herbicides or groups. In that case, we can leverage higher labeled herbicide application rates and minimize the risk of negative soybean response. Extension Weed Science Specialists from the U of I have suggested rates of 15 oz/A of metribuzin 75DF may be necessary in pre-emerge residual applications to control waterhemp effectively. However, crop responses to metribuzin are a genuine concern at these suggested rates in times of cool, wet weather or even high soil pH. Knowing field tolerances to herbicides of essential soybean herbicides will be vital in avoiding this concern that may result in replant scenarios given the right environmental conditions. Another item around pre-emerge residuals that I am concerned with is the need for incorporation. Often, when I receive complaints that residuals did not seem to be effective, I first look to whether they were incorporated with tillage and what rainfall patterns were like for approximately ten days after application. If residuals were incorporated, I look to see what the tillage depth might have been. Generally, if incorporation was greater than two inches, the herbicide was likely diluted to an ineffective rate because of too much mixing. If tillage is likely not a factor, then too little or too much rainfall occurs. Either not enough for activation, or it was leached out of the zone where weed seeds might germinate. Both of these items are about the water solubility of a herbicide. Generally, good residual herbicide plans might include a herbicide with a high-water solubility with a pre-emerge application and then a lower solubility herbicide with a post-pass because there is generally less rainfall. The only type of herbicide that truly needs to be incorporated is the "yellows" or Group 3, such as those older formulations of pendimethalin or trifluralin that were significantly degraded when exposed to direct sunlight.

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





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



Chris Greenwold
217-355-8675



Jordan McDaniel
217-352-9817



Robert Lalumendier
217-352-3341



Barry Karuzis
217-352-4555



Steve Derry
217-352-2655



Tanna Suits
217-892-4479



Andrew Deedrich
217-359-3941



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

7 Ways Home Fires Start and How to Prevent Them

by Carrie Skogsberg

Reviewed by Eric Vanasdale, Loss Control Supervisor at COUNTRY Financial

You have likely talked with your family about an evacuation plan if a fire starts in your home. But have you thought about fire prevention? Fires can start and escalate quickly in everyday moments like cooking a meal. Staying vigilant in the kitchen and performing seasonal home maintenance can go a long way to prevent home fires.

These are the most common ways house fires start and the steps you can take to prevent them.

1. Stay by your stove

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, cooking is, by far, the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. The main contributing factor is leaving cooking equipment unattended. If you need to leave the kitchen, turn the burner off, and follow these other precautions for staying safe in the kitchen:

- Clean your equipment after each use, such as toaster crumbs and grease on the stove.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove so no one can bump into the pans and turn them over.
- Keep a pan lid or baking sheet nearby that can be used to cover a pan if it catches on fire.
- Keep your stove clear of other debris such as oven mitts, packaging, towels and curtains.

2. Extinguish cigarettes and other smoking materials.

The National Fire Protection Agency reports that smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths. If smoking, practice extra caution to avoid starting a fire, such as:

- Smoke outside. Many things in a home can catch fire if they come in contact with a cigarette or ashes.
- Be sure to put cigarettes out all the way every time. Don't walk away from lit cigarettes or other smoking materials and put water on the ashes and butts to make sure they're really extinguished.
- Stay alert when smoking. Don't smoke after taking medicine that may make you tired.
- Never smoke around medical oxygen. It can explode if a spark or flame is nearby, even if it's turned off.
- Never smoke in bed. Mattresses and bedding easily catch fire; and there is a risk of falling asleep with a lit cigarette.

3. Give your space heater a little... space.

Space heaters are a nice addition to a chilly room, but they can be dangerous. In fact, according to the National Fire Protection Association, they account for nearly half of home heating fires. Fire experts say it can take only three and a half minutes for a space heater to engulf an entire room.

If you're warming up your home with a space heater, take the following precautions:

- When using an electric portable space heater, plug it directly into an outlet and not an extension cord.
- Leave at least three feet of empty, clean space around the heater and turn it off before leaving the house and going to bed.
- Remember to double-check space heaters to make sure they're approved for indoor use. Many fuel-fired space heaters emit carbon monoxide gas and cannot be used indoors. If it isn't approved to be used indoors, or that isn't clear in the instructions, don't risk it!

4. Maintain your furnace

Furnaces usually sit in dark, secluded places of the home, making it easy to forget about them. But it's important to ask a heating and cooling specialist to inspect it every year to check for leaks and any obstructions. Something as simple as lint buildup can be dangerous.

Change furnace filters every three months to reduce particle build-up. Changing the filter is easy and something a homeowner can do. Aside from adding an extra layer of safety, a clean furnace filter traps dirt and allergens and makes furnaces run more efficiently.

5. Pay for annual chimney sweeps

Annual chimney sweeps ensure a chimney is free of dangerous creosote residue, as well as soot and other debris. Buildup in the flue system is flammable and has the potential to catch fire.

When using your fireplace:

- Carefully dispose of ashes. Let them cool for at least 48 hours and put them in a metal bucket with a tight-fitting lid. Don't keep them in a garage or near buildings where they can ignite flammable objects.
- Don't vacuum ashes for at least 48 hours after putting out the fire.

6. Leave smoke detectors enabled

If your smoke detector goes off while you're cooking in the kitchen, don't turn it off. Too many people forget to turn them back on.

Test smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries at least twice per year. It's helpful to use a specific date like daylight savings time changes to remember to check them.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends homes have smoke alarms installed on every floor, including the basement. For extra safety, install smoke alarms both inside and outside sleeping areas.

7. Pay attention to your wiring

Homeowners should check that they're not overloading electrical outlets by reviewing the wattage rating and following the manufacturer instructions of how many strands can be plugged in per outlet. If you blow a fuse, consider it a warning and decrease wattage by plugging that item into a different area.



Parts Runs Keep The Farm Running

The farmer's wife handed my husband a stick-style drawing. "He told me you will know what he needs," she said of her farmer husband while my husband paused at the brain teaser before him.

At the time, my husband worked behind a parts counter for a farm equipment dealership. The era pre-dated smart phones with capabilities of taking and sending photos, but we did have flip phones. So with a phone call to talk through the drawing, my husband figured out the farmer's need.

'Tis the season for the inevitable parts run. In Grubhub style, the run includes a designated person driving to a retail location to pick up a part and deliver it to the farm. The act's level of urgency generally falls into one of two categories.

The "rainy day parts run" includes less-urgent parts related to general maintenance or fixing something non-critical to the machine's function while the rain prevents farmers from harvesting. It likens the pre-harvest repair and maintenance intended to prevent down-time.

The "emergency parts run" indicates a machine-down situation. The parts runner immediately abandons what they're doing to fetch a part with no opportunity to piggy-back extra errands on that trip to town. You get there. You get back. And then hope the part fixes the problem.

Getting there could take 20 minutes or it could consume a four-hour roundtrip that's still faster than Next Day Air. In the meantime, our mechanically minded team members prepare the machine to receive the part. If that repair exceeds our expertise, we call a professional technician for help.

Ideally, the fix is as simple as fetching the part. But sometimes, parts runners return with the wrong parts due to human error in the ordering process. Occasionally, runners unknowingly retrieve an incomplete order

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS (USPS 099-840) 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 Tharp; 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 Buitla Ag in the Classroom Director - Sarah Kaper Ag in the Classroom Educator - Julie Adcock Contact us at (217) 352-5235 www.ccfarmbureau.com

that requires a return trip. Worse yet, the fetched part doesn't fix the problem.

Technology generally improves the accuracy of parts orders as farmers can review web-based parts schematics to identify the exact part numbers. Sharing smartphone photos helps parts departments with diagnosis and identification. Bringing in the broken part is almost a sure win for an identical replacement, so blown hydraulic hoses often make the trip.

My husband recalls an unusual parts pickup in which a farmer who lived hours away by car landed a helicopter in the dealership's parking lot. The farmer ran inside for his parts and left within seconds. It's an extreme case, but machine-down times call for machine-down measures to keep the farm running.

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

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

Form fields for publication details, including publication number 10782966, issue date 09/18/2024, and circulation data tables.

Table with 3 columns: Extent and Nature of Circulation, Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months, and No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date.

Form sections for electronic copy circulation, publication of statement of ownership, and signature of editor/publisher.



CCFB Picnic

On August 8 CCFB hosted its annual Membership Appreciation Picnic. Thank you to all our members who came out and enjoyed ice cream, inflatables, and fellowship!



Canning Class

The Women Rooted in Ag Committee hosted a canning class teaching members how to effectively and safely preserve their food.

