

# 2025 Year in Review – Champaign County Farm Bureau

2025 has been a year of growth, change, and strong community engagement for the Champaign County Farm Bureau. From new initiatives to long-standing traditions, we're proud of the work accomplished alongside our members and partners.

We started the year with a busy schedule of marketing meetings, conferences, and our first annual Food Bank February, which will return in 2026. Early outreach efforts gave us valuable feedback from members on priorities for the year ahead.

During planting season, the CCFB's adopted legislator, Rep. Hoan Huynh, visited Champaign County. This was a wonderful opportunity to build a relationship with an elected official and share the importance of agriculture in Illinois.

As summer arrived, our calendar filled with events that brought members together across the county. The Foundation Gala, Burger Bash, and a Toolshed Meeting were highlights, alongside gatherings for AgriLink, Women Rooted in Ag, and Young Leaders. Our Annual Membership Appreciation Picnic at Hudson Farms was once again a favorite—families relaxing, kids playing, and everyone enjoying a Sunday afternoon on the farm. The Foundation Golf Outing was another success, combining fun with support for local ag education.

This fall, we hosted three Feed



the Farmers events at local elevators, partnering with COUNTRY Financial agents and the Mahomet FFA Chapter to serve over 775 pork chop sandwiches in one week. These efforts reminded us of the value of community partnerships and the importance of supporting those who feed us all.

Throughout the year, the CCFB continued to work on issues that impact our members and rural communities. Whether it's making sure that infrastructure projects respect landowner rights, continuing to engage with the Carle Illinois College

of Medicine to improve medical students' understanding of farm hazards and rural health issues, or working with a variety of elected officials to ensure your voice as a member is heard at all levels of government, the CCFB continues to work for you.

We also saw some staff transitions this year. Lucas Stark, former CCFB Assistant Manager, accepted a new role with Farm Credit—we wish him all the best! Emily Cler has stepped into the new Director of Engagement position, combining membership coordination and outreach with the



duties that formerly fell under the assistant manager.

Debbie Styan continues to be the friendly face at our front desk—often the first person you'll see or hear when contacting the office. During this transition, she has also taken on

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## Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the 115th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau is called for Thursday, January 15th, 2026 at the Champaign County Farm Bureau, 801 N. Country Fair Dr, Champaign, IL.

The business meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of consideration of any business which may be properly presented.

Directors from the following townships will be elected:

- Crittenden
- East Bend
- Hensley
- Ogden
- Rantoul
- Tolono
- Urbana

Minutes of the 2025 CCFB Annual Meeting will be printed in the December edition of the CCFB newsletter.

Please fill out the information for the Proxy below and return by **Jan. 9th, 2026** to:

**Champaign Co. Farm Bureau**  
801 N. Country Fair Dr.  
Champaign, IL 61821

### PROXY KNOWN ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENT THAT

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of member) of \_\_\_\_\_ (address)

a voting member of the Champaign County Farm Bureau, a corporation organized under the law of Illinois, does hereby appoint and constitute Casey Hettinger of Urbana, Illinois, or failing him, Robert Barker of Champaign, Illinois, their true and lawful attorney to attend the annual meeting of the members of the Champaign County Farm Bureau to be held in the Champaign County Farm Bureau Building, Champaign, Illinois on the 15th day of January, 2026 and any and all adjustments thereof, and to vote for this member as its proxy and representative, the one vote which the member would be entitled to cast if actually present, upon any and all things competent to said member, as may in their judgement be necessary or advantageous for all interests of this corporation.

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*This proxy can also be filled out electronically at*  
<https://form.jotform.com/champaignCFB/2024-ccfb-annual-meeting-proxy>



# December Report

## President, Doug Downs



Doug Downs, CCFB President

It's the holiday season. All the field work is done. My crops are in the bins, fertilizers on, equipment cleaned and put away and there's even a chance to see a basketball game this late fall due to the incredible weather we've been blessed with. The other day I had a non farming friend say to me something like 'about time to go to Florida and do nothing for the next 6 months eh.' After a quick reflection on that statement I said something like: Well, not really.....I explained to him it's winter meeting season. It's also year-end tax planning season, accounting and budget projection season.

Seed, chemical, and crop protection product decision making season as well. It's the beginning of shop season, preventative maintenance and equipment servicing season, then sprinkle in a couple hundred loads of grain to haul amongst all those jobs. With a few equipment rebuilds in there... the next thing you know it'll be a mad scramble to make sure planters are ready to roll by April. Around here, as with most all of us, there is not much "down time" but there certainly is less stress and more slow time and I'm ready for that. The rat race is over for a short spell.

It's an extremely busy time in the office. Whether it is in the farm office, banker's office, seed dealer's office, or here at the farm bureau office, many decisions regarding the future are being made. Field data and financials are being analyzed and projections made for what we can and can't do to be as efficient and profitable as possible.

About the time you get this, the Champaign County Farm Bureau will be in the final preparations phase for our annual meeting in Chicago. The delegates are meeting to decipher many resolutions and bylaw amendments about now. This year I'm happy to report we have a diverse age group representing our county. The older crowd for wisdom and the younger crowd to carry on the values we hold dear. We are lucky to have two major award winners and we look forward to hosting a wide variety of distinguished guests from across the state in our suite that weekend for a formal reception after that awards ceremony. Senator Chapin Rose will be hosting a legislative reception in our suite as well. I'm anxious to share with you all the news, photos and results from the annual meeting in next month's edition.

I wish you all the best this holiday season. Have a very Merry Christmas season and a prosperous new year.

Doug Downs  
CCFB President

## Prime Timers Meeting

December 11, 2025

*Program: Jeff Blue, County Highway Engineer*

*Entertainment: Mike & Kathy Brake*

**\$8 per person/Fried Chicken Buffet**

**\*No Walk-Ins\***

**\*Call to reserve your spot by December 8\***

**CCFB Office - 217-352-5235**

## CCFB Calendar of Events

**December 2025**

<b>December 8</b>	<b>Women's Committee</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
<b>December 11</b>	<b>Prime Timers</b>	<b>10 am</b>
<b>December 18</b>	<b>Full Board</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>
<b>December 23</b>	<b>Governmental Affairs</b>	<b>7:30 am</b>
<b>Dec 24 – Jan 4</b>	<b>Office Closed - Holiday</b>	

## Women's Committee Calendar of Events

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

### Calendar of Events

**December 8, 2025 • 9:30 a.m. • CCFB Auditorium**

**Holiday Breakfast Celebration**

*Members are to bring a monetary contribution for the Giving Place.*

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additional responsibilities, including membership reports and other key tasks. We are very thankful for her continued dedication and support.

Throughout the year, our team remained focused on being present and accessible—meeting with members, attending local events, and strengthening the relationships that make this organization thrive.

As we look ahead to 2026, we're excited to continue building on this momentum—growing stronger together and serving our members with dedication and purpose.

If you're interested in getting involved in any of our upcoming programs, meetings, or events, please contact the Champaign County Farm Bureau office at 217-352-5235 or email [ccfb@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:ccfb@ccfarmbureau.com).

**Strong farms. Strong voices. Stronger community.**

**Your membership gives farmers a strong voice in policy, strengthens our farms, and builds a thriving community for all.**

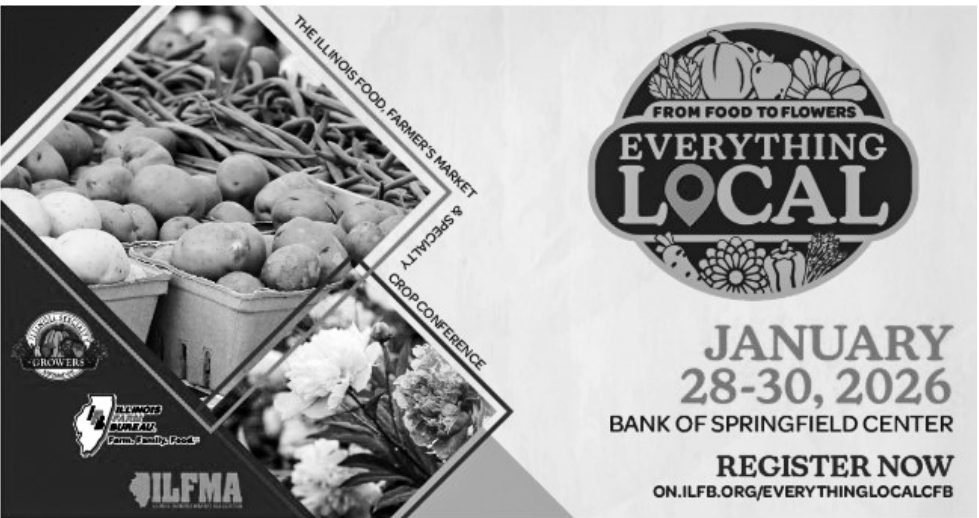
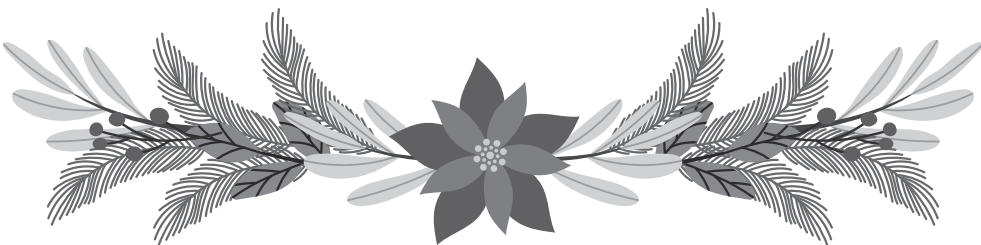


Visit [myifb.org](http://myifb.org) to see details.



ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

**Save**  
SCRIPTSAVE





# Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2025 – Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium

The 113th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by President Doug Downs. The meeting was held in the auditorium of the Champaign County Farm Bureau.

**Call of the Meeting by Casey Hettinger, Secretary**

Benjamin read the official notice of the meeting: Notice is hereby given that the 113th Annual meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau is called for Thursday, January 16, 2025, at the Champaign County Farm Bureau, 801 N. Country Fair Dr. Champaign, Illinois. The business meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of consideration of any business that may be properly presented. Directors from the following townships will be elected: Compromise, Ludlow, Newcomb, Philo, Raymond, Sadorus, St. Joseph, Scott, and Somer

**Credentials Committee Report by Casey Hettinger**

Benjamin reported that the Credentials Committee consisting of Jason Watson and Jeff Fisher informed the President that a quorum was present. Therefore, the Secretary declared that the 113th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau was legally convened.

**Approval of the Agenda**

President Doug Downs reviewed the agenda.  
A motion was made by Adam Sharp, seconded by Chandler Bruns, and carried to approve the agenda.

**Secretary’s Report by Casey Hettinger**

Benjamin stated that minutes of the 112th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau were printed and distributed to the members present. It is the recommendation of the Board of Directors that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with.

A motion was made by Casey Hettinger, seconded by Jason Watson, and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Benjamin asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the last annual meeting.  
A motion was made by Casey Hettinger, seconded by Jeff Fisher to approve the minutes of the 112th Annual Meeting as written.

**Treasurer’s Report by Greg Johnson, Treasurer**

Greg stated that the Treasurer’s report for the Champaign County Farm Bureau was available on the table or on the screen.  
A motion was made by Greg Johnson, seconded by Adam Sharp and carried to approve the financial statement be approved as printed.

**Introduction of Retiring Board Members by Jason Watson, 1st Vice-President**

Jason recognized the retiring Board members and presented them with a gift of appreciation: Craig Anderson, Newcomb Township, Parker Smith, Raymond Township, and Ryan Musson, Sadorus Township.

**Introduction of Nominating Committee by Jason Watson, 1st Vice-President**

Jason introduced the nominating committee which consisted of: Ryan Musson, Kaitlin Tharp, Craig Anderson, Casey Hettinger, and himself.

**Members Running for an additional term by Jason Watson**

Jason shared with the board the members running for an additional term: Jeff Suits, Compromise Township, Casey Hettinger, Philo Township, Adam Sharp, Somer Township, Matt Schluter, Ludlow Township, and Byron Mackey, Scott Township.

**Candidates nominated for the First Time by Jason Watson**

Jason revealed candidates nominated for the first time: Brandon Hastings, St. Joseph Township, Dennis Riggs, Raymond Township, Greg Stierwalt, Sadorus Township, and Campbell Cruse, Newcomb Township.

President Doug Downs nominated Gerald Henry, Maynard Birkey, and Layne Ingram to serve as tellers who will count the ballots in case of a contested election. He asked for nominations from the floor and there were none.

A motion was made by Jason Watson, seconded by Greg Johnson, and carried for the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominated candidates.

**Approval of IAA Delegates and Actions and Deeds by Doug Downs**

Doug asked for a motion to authorize the Board of Directors to select the delegates for the 2025 IAA Annual Meeting and to approve the actions and deeds of the Board of Directors of 2024.  
A motion was made by Jeff Fisher, seconded by Jason Watson and carried to allow the Board of Directors to select delegates to the 2025 IAA Annual meeting and approve the actions and deeds of the Board of Directors of 2024.

**Adjournment of Meeting by Doug Downs**

Paul asked for a motion to adjourn the 113th Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau.  
A motion was made by Jason Watson, seconded by Adam Sharp, and carried to adjourn the meeting.  
Doug Downs declared the Annual Meeting of the Champaign County Farm Bureau adjourned at 5:52pm.

# THE POWER of Grassroots



## SAVE the DATE

### GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17

20 26

Springfield, IL





## You’re invited to a Life Line Screening event!

**Champaign County Farm Bureau**  
801 N Country Fair Dr. Champaign, IL 61821  
Screenings will be held in the Auditorium  
**Tuesday, December 16, 2025**



Life Line Screening is the nation’s leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings.**

**Trusted by over 11 million customers.**

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

**Who should attend: Anyone age of 40+**

**Special Pricing for \$129**

• Carotid Artery Disease Screening

• Peripheral Artery Disease Screening

• Atrial Fibrillation Screening

• Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Scan here:

Call 800-324-9458 and use promo code: HABC001

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

Visit [LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC](https://llsa.social/habc)

Text the word “circle” to 216-279-1607







CCFBOFOUNDATION.COM | CCFBFOUNDATION | CCFB\_FOUNDATION

AG in the  
**Classroom**  
2025-2026

“ Providing hands-on learning opportunities that represent our industry in a truthful and modern way. ”

[www.ccfbfoundation.com/aic](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com/aic)

**Harvest Careers**

Students explored how different harvesting machines are used for crops like soybeans, corn, pumpkins, horseradish, and apples. After learning how each type of equipment works, they were challenged to design and build their own harvesting machines for a specific crop. Once completed, students tested their prototypes and made improvements based on how well they performed.

As part of the project, we also discussed careers connected to this work, including engineering and mechanical roles that play a key part in designing and producing agricultural machinery.

**Design**

**BUILD SKILLS**

**TESTED**

**Nature's Surprise Package**

Students explore conifer trees and observe how pine cones adapt to their environment and protect seeds until the right conditions for growth are met.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**We're Cook'n Now!**  
Illinois Ag in the Classroom hosted coordinator training and featured lessons for adults on sourdough and homemade butter.

*Simple Sourdough*

**Elements of Surprise!**  
Nutrients for Life explained the elements plants and humans use on the Periodic Table with a Venn Diagram activity.

**NUTRIENTS FOR LIFE**

**Know Your Apples**  
Moultrie County Coordinator, Linda Henry, hosted a meeting in Sullivan with a tour of Okaw Valley Apple Orchard vertical axis system and cider making machine.

**Keep in Touch**

QR Code to [ccfbfoundation.com/aic](http://ccfbfoundation.com/aic)

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Champaign County Ag in the Classroom

Champaign County  
**FARM BUREAU**  
**FOUNDATION**  
*Scholarships*

**Applications are OPEN!**

**Invest in your future!**

Apply today at [ccfbfoundation.com/scholarship](http://ccfbfoundation.com/scholarship)  
Applications due January 31,

**As the year comes to a close, we invite you to give a gift that grows!**

Through our Grounded in Ag campaign, your donation brings agriculture to life through Ag in the Classroom for literally thousands of Champaign County students.

**For many children, these lessons are their very first connection to the farm — the food on their plate, the clothes they wear, and the farmers and people who make it all possible.**

**Your support helps us spark curiosity, appreciation, and respect for agriculture in the next generation.**

**Together we can keep our community Grounded in Ag!**

**For More Information or to Donate Online:**  
**[www.ccfbfoundation.com/grounded](http://www.ccfbfoundation.com/grounded)**



# SUNRISE



**JIM MEINHART,**

## From The Field

We have reached the time of year when the harvest is finally complete and we reap its rewards. This is also the time of year when many growers make input decisions to take advantage of prepay discounts typically offered at this time. These discounts may include crop protection, seed, and overall plant fertility. We also usually start to see many new product introductions for the next growing season. I want growers to begin thinking about how products performed this year and whether they are useful for their operations, or if further evaluation is needed. For this month's newsletter, I will focus on how growers can make the best decisions for their operations.

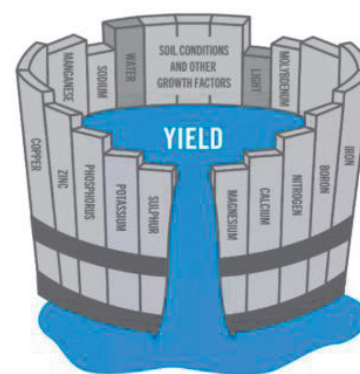
This is the time when growers are bombarded with advertisements for new products for the next growing season. The obvious advertising campaign will feature a yield gain of X bushels per acre. However, this is a bit of a loaded statement that needs to be broken down to understand further if implementing this new product into your operation, and whether you can expect similar results next harvest. Below are the KEY questions that all growers should ask before committing to a new product in their operation.

1. Where were the product evaluations conducted? If the product evaluations were conducted across several states, growing environments may not be comparable to local environments. Or were the evaluations conducted at the national level and then compiled?
2. If evaluations were conducted nationally, ask what data is generated locally to gain deeper insights into local performance.
3. Were the product evaluations conducted to similar practices currently being utilized? This might include the following.
  - a. Row Spacing
  - b. Planting Date
  - c. Soil Fertility Levels
4. Who conducted the evaluations?
  - a. Basic manufacture of products, such as seed companies.
  - b. Third party, an independent research group.
  - c. Universities, Land-Grant Universities.
5. How were comparisons generated?
  - a. Replicated small plots.
  - b. Field scale testing.
    - i. Replicated Test Strips
    - ii. Treated vs. Untreated Blocks
6. Product performance statistics will indicate the likelihood of repeatability of product performance. An example is a high CV value, which indicates low confidence in the repeatability of product performance. Another good indication of product performance will be a basic piano graph. Piano graphs will show all the wins and losses of a particular product.
7. Efficacy charts are another great resource to consider, especially if considering crop protection products that will control a particular pest. Land-Grant Universities usually generate these. The Crop Protection Network generates one set of efficacy charts I often use to select fungicide active ingredients effective for individual plant pathogen control.

An example of how one might put these questions to work is when considering a new biological that claims fungicidal properties. This concept is relatively new, as biologics are not typically thought of as having anti-pathology type plant benefits. Starting with the questions above.

1. If product evaluations were not conducted locally, it isn't easy to assume similar results could be expected simply because the ultimate trump card of weather may not be like local growing environments in terms of rainfall and temperature.
2. Typically, when national data is represented, this is a broad stroke and may not represent local environments or indicate high confidence in product performance.

3. For this product, known plant disease information and testing of this product will be crucial for determining if there will be an advantage to utilizing a biological fungicide. For example, if other limiting crop factors are not addressed first — such as crop fertility issues — addressing them before using a biological fungicide will be crucial. Please don't forget Liebig's Law of the Minimum.



LIEBIG'S BARREL HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND:

- Identifying the limiting factors of your soil is an essential step in improving yield potential.
- Increasing the amount of plentiful nutrients will not increase potential plant growth.
- Increasing the amount of the most limited nutrient can you improve the potential plant growth.
- Protect the plentiful nutrients so they don't become limiting factors.

Image provided.

[https://kochagronomicservices.com/knowledge-center/Liebig%E2%80%99s-Barrel-and-Limiting-Factors-of-Nutrients\\_2598.aspx](https://kochagronomicservices.com/knowledge-center/Liebig%E2%80%99s-Barrel-and-Limiting-Factors-of-Nutrients_2598.aspx)

[https://kochagronomicservices.com/knowledge-center/Liebig%E2%80%99s-Barrel-and-Limiting-Factors-of-Nutrients\\_2598.aspx](https://kochagronomicservices.com/knowledge-center/Liebig%E2%80%99s-Barrel-and-Limiting-Factors-of-Nutrients_2598.aspx)

1. Who generated the data? It is essential to know if multiple research organizations have conducted similar product research. This indicates that the data is biased if only the basic manufacturer has undertaken the research. However, the data will likely be valid if third parties or universities have conducted similar research. Peer-reviewed research often provides the best data, so most human medical research is Peer-reviewed.
2. Understanding how the data was generated will often give greater confidence in a product. Small, replicated plots are great for screening a product's performance across geographies. However, small plots don't always capture field variability. Field-scale testing is needed to understand if it will be repeatable at the farm level, but it is limited to understanding microenvironments. Field testing that includes replicated plots and whole-field testing may provide the best insights, rather than relying on a single testing method.
1. A good representation of statistical analysis will demonstrate confidence in product performance. That includes multiple years of testing and locations, often providing the best statistics for repeatability. If a product entered the marketplace with only 1 year's worth of data from a single location, I would not personally recommend it.

In conclusion, understanding how data is generated will provide insights into how well a product might perform. It is also known as metadata or "data about the data."

At Sunrise FS, we compile a book containing all comparisons and evaluations of the products we test locally. However, with limited resources and often only a limited number of product tests, we cannot provide statistics; we can only say whether a product performed and whether it provided a positive return on investment at current grain marketing prices. I view Sunrise FS's On-Farm Trial book of yield trial results as the last validation of whether Sunrise FS should represent a product. If readers of this newsletter have any questions or comments about the topics discussed, don't hesitate to contact me.

*Eric Beckett, CPag, CCA 4RNMS*

*Agronomist, Sunrise FS*

*217-318-9100*

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# How To Save Money on Car Insurance

*by COUNTRY Financial*

Gas prices, tight budgets and rising inflation – according to our recent survey<sup>1</sup>, 9 out of 10 people are concerned about achieving financial goals because of the current economy. With expenses running high, many people are looking for ways to make car insurance cheaper.

Your car is a regular expense, but if you’re wondering how to save money on car insurance, try use these proven tips to help reduce insurance rates.

## 1. Follow the speed limit

Speeding tickets or other traffic offenses are the most common to see your insurance rates jump. Tickets go on your driver’s record with the state, which is reported to insurance, and more traffic offenses make you a riskier driver to insure.

Some insurance companies have programs that measure your driving in real-time to offer discounts for safe driving. They use data from your phone or a device that plugs into your car to measure your driving. The safer you drive, the lower your car insurance.

COUNTRY Financial offers exactly this type of program, **the DriverIQ program**. Enroll and start with a 10% car insurance discount that could increase to as much as 25% with safe driving.

## 2. Keep your credit score up

Another way to save money on car insurance is to stay in good standing with the credit agencies. Pay your bills on time and check your credit history often to make sure it’s correct. You can access your credit history for free at [annualcreditreport.com](https://annualcreditreport.com).

## 3. Choose your car carefully

Luxurious, sports and newer-model cars are expensive to buy and expensive to fix, so they cost more to insure. On the other hand, newer cars with sensors and other safety features don’t just give you peace of mind on the road, they can be safer to drive and help you save money on car insurance. The next time your car shopping, call your insurance agent to get rates on the make and model of the car you’re planning to buy. Think of auto insurance as one part of the cost of owning your car, and that could impact your buying decision.

## 4. Look for car insurance discounts

Many companies offer **car insurance discounts**, and in some cases, you can qualify for more than one discount for greater savings. For example, when you insure multiple cars or **bundle your home and car insurance**, you could get a discount. But taking a defensive driving class, keeping a good driving record, being a good student, or having a certain career could layer more car insurance discounts and add up to more savings.

Check with your insurance agent to make sure you get all the discounts you can.

## Final thoughts

Whether you’re looking for auto insurance or need to review your existing insurance coverage, **contact your local COUNTRY Financial representative** for a quote or to review your coverages or auto insurance discounts.



# Farm Provides a Gathering Ground

My Spiritual Gifts Quiz from church put hospitality at the top of my list. Mom didn’t take the quiz, but I’ll bet the Lievens 40 she’d score the same. So, with a strong service mindset and the shop space to match, we host. In the last 10 years, our farm has hosted two weddings, FFA and 4-H meetings, farmer events, a bridal shower, my daughter’s graduation party, and last summer, the first-ever all-class reunion for our local high school.

By now, our employees know “other duties as assigned” in their job descriptions gets some mileage. And they know with Christmas coming, the shop clear-out and clean-up is imminent. In preparation for our four-generation Christmas party, we pause machinery maintenance, remove the farm equipment and scrub the concrete floor. Christmas carols replace country tunes on the shop speakers. When the big event arrives, the cousins make memories in a farm shop turned makeshift gymnasium for kicking balls, shooting hoops and riding pedal tractors. The adults play cards in the conference room, and potluck food lines tables down the office hallway for mealtime and grazing.

The farm naturally brings together family, tradition and community at the intersection of work and home, hospitality and hard work, generosity and gravel. Yes, rocks. We farm with 21st-century equipment and still live on a 20th-century road – a nuisance for guests arriving in heavy rain (mud and washouts), a dry spell (fog-level dust) or the early spring thaw when your car wrestles with the gravel road. It’s all part of the experience.

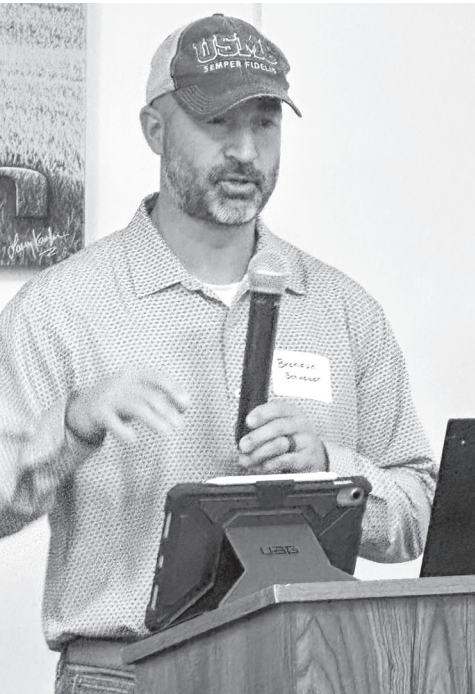


Mom ensures hospitable elements carry farm flair. From wood salvaged off an old barn, a local carpenter transformed an old chest freezer into a rustic drink and ice cream station and fashioned a rolling bar to match. A “dessert wagon” sports steel wheels from an old loading chute and the door from a barn mow hides some of the welding corner. Among my favorites: Two tractors on the farm span exactly 70 years apart to make a conversation piece as much as a party backdrop.

The FFA mom in me roots for a winter “drive-in movie” with teen vehicles parked in the shop to watch a film on the drywall projector screen. But if not, we’ll have a farm conference in March and a graduation party in May. Fingers crossed, the weather allows planting in April..

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her parents and brother in Knox County, where they grow corn, soybeans and hay, raise beef cattle and operate side businesses related to the family operation.

## Honoring Our Veterans



### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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#### OFFICERS

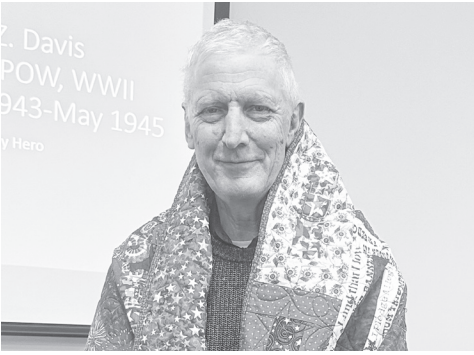
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Bob Barker, Champaign..... 1st Vice-President  
Jason Watson, Crittenden..... 2nd Vice-President  
Casey Hettinger, Philo..... Secretary  
Greg Johnson, Rantoul..... Treasurer

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-Campbell Cruse; Ogden-Layne Ingram; Pesotum-Lucas Meharry; Philo-Casey Hettinger; Rantoul-Greg Johnson; Raymond-Dennis Riggs; Sadorus-Greg Stierwalt; Scott-Byron Mackey; Sidney-Daniel Herriott; Somer-Adam Sharp; South Homer-Michael Wendling; Stanton-Les Siuts; St. Joseph-Brandon Hastings; Tolono-Jeff Fisher; Urbana- Chandler Janes; 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  
Communications Director – Lesley Gooding  
Administrative Assistant – Debbie Styan  
Director of Engagement – Emily Cler  
Foundation Director – Kirk Buitta  
Ag in the Classroom Director – Sarah Kaper  
Ag in the Classroom Educator – Julie Adcock

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





# Women's Committee Flowers & Fun

Pumpkin floral arrangement class with CCFB Women's Committee at Rural Rose in Fisher



# Veterans Breakfast

Champaign County Farm Bureau hosted a Veterans Breakfast on November 11. Veterans and guests were treated to breakfast, guest speakers, and fellowship.



# Women's Committee in the Community

Champaign County Farm Bureau Women's Committee served dinner for the Young Lives program. Committee members also made bears for the children.



# WOMEN'S COMMITTEE RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Juanita Henry

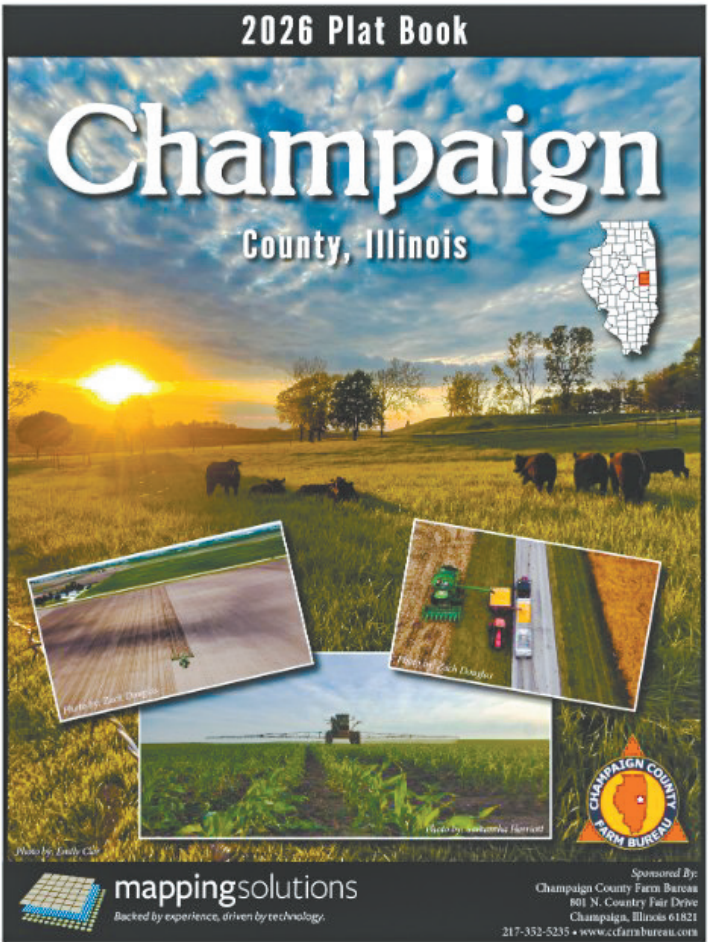
## Cheese Balls

### Directions & Ingredients

- 2 – 8 oz. pkg cream cheese softened
- 1 stick butter softened
- Mix cream cheese and butter
- Add the following ingredients
- ½ c. chopped green olives
- 6-8 green onions chopped
- Roll in chopped pecans
- Refrigerate – serve with crackers



2026 Plat Books are available at the CCFB Office!



## Step by Step

### involvement with Champaign County Farm Bureau

Farm Bureau offers opportunities for members at every stage of life and involvement. From Young Leaders to Women's programs, Governmental Affairs, and Prime Timers, each step helps you grow your leadership, build connections, and make an impact in agriculture and the community. Start small, get involved, and see where your Farm Bureau journey can take you!



The Young Leaders program develops future agricultural leaders through networking, community involvement, and leadership opportunities within the Farm Bureau.



The Women's Committee equips members to educate and engage families about agriculture while fostering leadership, community connections, and collaboration.



COLLEGIATE  
FARM  
BUREAU

YOUNG  
LEADERS

WOMEN  
ROOTED IN  
AG

WOMEN'S  
COMMITTEE

PRIME  
TIMERS

Collegiate Farm Bureau unites students as the voice of agriculture on their campuses and in their communities, empowering them to be powerful assets for the agriculture industry.



Women Rooted in Ag connects women in agriculture to grow leadership, build community, and support each other through education, advocacy, and networking.



Prime Timers provides opportunities for long-time and retired Farm Bureau members to remain engaged, share their experience, and continue supporting agricultural programs and community initiatives.

## How do I use my Farm Bureau Benefits?

Either show your Illinois Farm Bureau Card in person or Go to <https://ilfb.abenity.com/> and login. The login to this site is separate from your Illinois Farm Bureau Account. For help registering with Abenity call the office at 217-352-5235.



# Two Million Saved

Illinois Farm Bureau members saved \$2 million in a year, using tangible member benefits.



Start Saving Today!

Save on the every day products and services you need from the brands you trust.