

Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 85 No. 2

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February 2007

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CCFB holds 95th annual meeting

Three new directors were elected to the Champaign County Farm Bureau Board of Directors at the 95th Annual Meeting held Monday, January 15 at the Holiday Inn in Urbana.

The following individuals were elected to the board: Kevin Babb, Newcomb Township; Gerald Henry, Sadorus Township; and Roger Grace, Somer Township. In addition, Jeff Suits, Compromise Township; C.J. Decker, Philo Township; Dennis Riggs, Raymond Township; Jeff Place, St. Joseph Township; and Paul Berbaum, Scott Township were re-elected to the board. These directors will serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors.

The Champaign County Farm Bureau also honored Ken Dalenberg, Newcomb Township; Don Berbaum, Colfax Township; Bill Stierwalt, Sadorus Township; and Perry Sage, Somer Township for their service as they retired from the Board of Directors.

Sergeant Dan Coile was recognized as the Champaign County Deputy of the Year. Coile has been with the Sheriff's office for more than 14 years. As a member and supervisor of the Champaign County Sheriff's of-

fice street crimes unit, Coile has been an instrumental part of the war on illegal narcotics in this county, according to his peers.

Dr. Charles Olson, assistant dean for student development and career services in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois, received the Urban Ag Leader award presented by the Young Ag Leaders. In his work with students, Olson is an ambassador for agriculture careers. Olson has also worked closely with the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation to establish support for Foundation scholarship recipients. They have specifically partnered on efforts to develop scholarships for local students transferring from Parkland College to the University of Illinois.

The Board of Directors held elections during their meeting on January 18. The following officers were re-elected: Scott Bidner, president; Doug Hansens, 1st vice-president; Paul Compton, 2nd vice-president; Paul Berbaum, treasurer and Jeff Place, secretary. Luke Rogers was also appointed to serve as a director for Ludlow Township.

Upper left: CCFB President Scott Bidner congratulates Dr. Charles Olson on receiving the Urban Ag Leader award.

Lower left: Sergeant Dan Coile receives the Deputy of the Year award.

Retiring Board members Bill Stierwalt, Don Berbaum and Perry Sage (upper right) and Ken Dalenberg (lower right) received plaques from CCFB President Scott Bidner.

CCFB Board prioritizes local issues

Local government can have a significant impact on agriculture in Champaign County. For that reason, the Champaign County Farm Bureau continually works with local government officials on issues that affect agriculture and producers. To help facilitate that work, the CCFB Board of Directors recently approved a list of important local government issues and Farm Bureau's position on them.

The list, which has been distributed to local government officials, includes background information on the following issues as well as the positions listed.

Drainage: We encourage the appointment of well-qualified individuals as drainage district commissioners. We also support efforts to protect drainage tile during construction projects in rural areas.

Ethanol: We support efforts to increase the production of ethanol and other biofuels in Illinois including Champaign County. Additionally, we encourage the use of ethanol-blended fuels in

order to reduce carbon monoxide and ozone pollution.

Farmland Preservation: We support compact and contiguous development with an emphasis on infill redevelopment.

Infrastructure: A balance must be found in funding rural roads while meeting the needs of roads serving the urban fringes. We support an appropriate balance of funding for the roads that are maintained by the county.

Mahomet Aquifer: We recommend continuing research on groundwater availability, recharge and the efficient use of our water resources, specifically the Mahomet Aquifer.

Planning and Zoning: Planning establishes a framework for an economically and environmentally sustainable agricultural industry. Farm Bureau continues to support one non-farm residential lot per forty acres owned with a maximum of two acres as part of the Champaign County zoning ordinance. The Farm Bureau supports limiting rural subdivisions on best prime farmland (LE equal or greater

than 85).

One tool that may help in planning for agriculture in the future is LEAM (Land Use Evolution and Impact Assessment Model). This model, which is supported by the Farm Bureau, should be adopted by the county as a resource and a planning tool. Additionally, the county should work with the Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District in reviewing our current LESA (Land Evaluation Site Assessment) system, ensuring it is up to date to meet the growing demand on this tool.

Farm Bureau also supports efforts to keep the growth in and around current municipal boundaries and strongly supports the county engaging in a comprehensive plan in an effort to plan for the county's future, which includes agriculture.

Property Taxes: We urge Champaign County taxing bodies to thoroughly analyze all potential revenue sources prior to voting on any proposed property tax increase.

Calendar of Events

February

- 1 Young Ag Leaders, 6 p.m., Parkland College
- 3 Farm Bill Discussions, 8 a.m. at Mahomet Lutheran Church and 11 a.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in St. Joseph
- 5 Marketing Club, 7 p.m.
- 8 Prime Timers, 10:00 a.m.
- 10 Foundation Hoopenanny, 11:30 a.m., Billy Barooz
- 10 Champaign Equine Affair, 12-4:30 p.m.
- 12 Women's Committee, 9:30 a.m.
- 13 Legislative Committee, 7:30 a.m.
- 13 Land Use Committee, 9:00 a.m.
- 15 Board of Directors meeting, 7 p.m.
- 26-27 Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference, Springfield

All meetings are in the Farm Bureau auditorium unless otherwise noted. Please call the Farm Bureau at 352-5235 with any questions.



President's Report

By Scott Bidner

George Will, moved by the military honors accorded President Ford at the national cathedral commented at the conclusion of services, "we know how to do ceremony brilliantly." We like to recognize those that have given of their time and talent, whatever their calling is in life. Within the Illinois Farm Bureau and Champaign County Farm Bureau, we too know how to do ceremony. **Last month's CCFB Annual Meeting marked the 95th time agricultural leaders have gathered** to recognize their counterparts and thank them for a job well done.

During the annual meeting in Chicago, it was my privilege to cross the stage to receive recognition on your behalf in each and every program award area measured by the Illinois Farm Bureau. The Young Ag Leader, Women's, and Prime Timer committees also received recognition. Champaign County Farm Bureau is busy.

"A ship in harbor is safe — but that is not what ships are built for." - John Shedd.

In 2006, the Board of Directors, committee members and other volunteers have been at work in the community and at the state and national levels to advance Farm Bureau policies. The board also recognizes the work of the Political Involvement Committee who honored many county board members as a "Friend of Agriculture." Several candidates in both primary and gen-

eral elections were supported and ran successful races. The Board and Legislative Committee worked with many other elected officials during the year and most recently met with our new "Adopted Legislator" in Chicago.

Champaign County successfully carried seven resolutions through to the meeting in Chicago and passage on the delegate floor. Our delegates also supported the election of Chris Hausman for the District 12 IAA board seat.

The Board's land use policy, first adopted when Gary Grace was president six years ago, was supported with both testimony and written input as the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and the county board considered the zoning re-write policies. Proposed policy was approved by the State's Attorney's Office, passed by the ZBA, and supported by a majority of the members of the county board. Successful passage, however, required a 2/3rd vote.

Champaign County is blessed with an abundance of talented and generous agricultural leaders. It would be impossible to catalogue the volunteer contribution members of the Champaign County Farm Bureau make each year. I want to offer a special thank you to all who make our organization what it is, but especially to committee chairs, the board and to our staff.

Members share views in survey

As its name suggests, the Champaign County Farm Bureau Viewpoint Committee is interested in collecting information from Farm Bureau members about their opinions and views. This information can then be used to help shape policy and direct future programs.

Attendees to the Champaign County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting were given a 12-question survey. The committee collected 219 responses. The following are the survey questions and responses.

- I am interested in investing in a new ethanol plant in east central Illinois this year.
Strongly agree 1 (7.8%) 2 (11%) 3 (31%) 4 (25%) 5 (25%) Strongly disagree
- Compared to last year, I will plant ___% more corn.
5% (5%) 10% (15%) 15% (6%) 20% (5%) 25% (1%) 30% (1%) 50% (1%)
80% (1%) 100% (2%)
Compared to last year, I will plant ___% less corn. 5% (1%) 10% (1%)
Compared to last year, I will plant the same corn acres. (61%)
- Would you consider planting a biomass crop if you could net the same income per acre that you do from corn?
Yes: 30% No: 21% Not sure: 49%
- I could support a farm program with a graduated benefit schedule. The larger the farm the less the farm payments.
Strongly agree 1 (20%) 2 (22%) 3 (28%) 4 (15%) 5 (15%) Strongly disagree
- The current population of Champaign County is approximately 180,000. What do you believe the optimum population of Champaign County should be in twenty years?
150,000 (5%) 180,000 (9%) 200,000 (38%) 250,000 (37%) 300,000 (4%) As many as possible (7%)
- There are approximately 570,000 acres of farmland left in Champaign County. Studies estimate that between 20,450 and 60,000 acres of this will be converted from farmland by 2030. How many acres of farmland can we afford to lose over the next 25 years?
10,000 (53%) 15,000 (9%) 20,000 (15%) 30,000 (7%) 40,000 (2%) 50,000 (1%) Whatever we need (13%)
- Urban development should be compact and contiguous and emphasize infill redevelopment.
Strongly agree 1 (56%) 2 (17%) 3 (18%) 4 (4%) 5 (6%) Strongly disagree
- We know enough about our water supply in Champaign County to use it wisely.
Strongly agree 1 (11%) 2 (16%) 3 (36%) 4 (10%) 5 (27%) Strongly disagree
- Income taxes should be increased to help balance the state budget.
Strongly agree 1 (11%) 2 (14%) 3 (26%) 4 (13%) 5 (36%) Strongly disagree
- Sales taxes should be increased to help balance the state budget.
Strongly agree 1 (8%) 2 (15%) 3 (33%) 4 (13%) 5 (31%) Strongly disagree
- I am concerned with methamphetamine or other drug abuse in Champaign County.
Strongly agree 1 (59%) 2 (18%) 3 (14%) 4 (6%) 5 (3%) Strongly disagree
- I support reforms on the state and federal levels to limit political contributions from special interest groups and individuals to candidates.
Strongly agree 1 (48%) 2 (16%) 3 (23%) 4 (6%) 5 (7%) Strongly disagree

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday
Manager -- Bradley Uken
Administrative Assistant -- Brenda Cole
Membership Director -- Deidra Gibson
HMO Administrator -- Donna Huxtable
Bookkeeper -- Amanda Hesterberg
Information Director -- Karen Hertz
Foundation Director -- Debby Rehn

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

YAL conducts field trip for FFAers

January was a busy month for the Champaign County Farm Bureau Young Ag Leaders. They presented the Urban Agriculture Leader award at the CCFB Annual Meeting, cheered on the Illini at a University of Illinois hockey game and organized an acquaintance day for local FFA chapters.

FFA Acquaintance Day is an annual day planned to introduce FFA students to Farm Bureau programs as well as provide an opportunity to learn more about agriculture and related careers.

This year, about 40 FFA students from Champaign County participated in the Acquaintance Day program that included tours of Stone Ridge Dairy in Bellflower, IL, a wind farm near Ellsworth, IL and The Andersons in Champaign. During lunch, two members of the committee explained Farm Bureau and what opportunities are available for them to get in-



FFA students from Heritage, Mahomet-Seymour, St. Joseph-Ogden and Unity High Schools participated in the Young Ag Leaders FFA Acquaintance Day on January 18. The group toured Stone Ridge Dairy, a wind farm and The Andersons grain elevator.

involved in the future. Both students and advisors commented on the variety of information and how much they learned.

FFA Chapters that participate in an acquaintance day program are then eligible to send stu-

dents to the Illinois Farm Bureau & Affiliates Youth Conference in April. This two-day conference stresses the need for personal development and the importance of the participant's role in the future of agriculture.



Foundation Corner

By Debby Rehn



If the Annual Meeting is any indication to how 2007 will go, the Foundation is off to a great start! We held our silent auction and also introduced a 50/50 raffle. Between the two, we raised enough money for 2 1/2 scholarships! I want to extend a BIG thank you to all of our donors and our buyers. Attendees of the Annual Meeting had the pleasure of hearing two of our scholarship recipients speak. A third recipient, who received an AFA Scholarship, could not attend the Annual Meeting and instead wrote a letter. I have included it in this month's Foundation Corner:

It is with great honor I write to you and thank you for the help and encouragement you have given the agricultural high school and college students from Champaign County. This past year, you have helped all students come one step closer to our goals and one step closer to our future careers. Tonight, we not only celebrate the great tasks we have achieved this past year, but look forward to and anticipate those that are yet to come.

One of the best ways you have helped me as well as other col-

lege students is the AFA Conference held in Kansas City, MO. AFA stands for Agriculture Future of America. At this conference, they hosted the best agriculture speakers and guests I have ever seen. All of these speakers were excited and thrilled about the future and so am I. They said the face of agriculture is changing and I believe it. Not only the methods are changing, but the people are to. Instead of seeing my grandfather and father in the field, I am now seeing my friends and relatives from my generation working this fertile soil in East Central Illinois. On the way home from the conference, I had to ask myself why every agriculture major wasn't required to attend this conference.

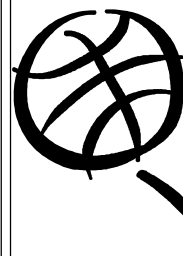
So tonight, let us celebrate the success we have accomplished this year. The future of agriculture is the strongest in the heart of Illinois and we have the best prepared youth in the state of Illinois. On behalf of all the students you have assisted this past year, I would like to give you the most sincere thank you. We could not have made it this far without your support.

Thank you and I wish you all the best for the upcoming year. Sincerely, Brian Spannagel

It is important to hear from the students that your donations are supporting and know just how appreciative they are. Jim Turpin was the guest speaker at the Annual Meeting. He reminded us that it is not about the wins and losses, rather the lasting relationships you develop throughout your career. The Foundation helps in providing a firm base for our youth as they begin their journey in an agricultural career.

Speaking of wins, the Illini did just that to help us kick off our first Hoopenanny! Billy Barooz had quite a Mexican feast for us and several people took home prizes from the half-time giveaways. February 10th at 11:30 a.m. is the last Hoopenanny of the year—come out for lunch and don't forget to wear your orange!

I find myself using the phrase "thank you" quite a bit lately and I hope it has not lost its meaning. Whether it is a small or large gift that you can afford to give—the Foundation is thankful for your donation...and the recipients are extremely grateful.



Orange & Blue Hoopenannys

Hosted by the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation

Sponsored by COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services®, Grand Prairie Cooperative and Illini FS.

February 10

Illinois vs. Indiana

all at

Billy Barooz

Food & Drinks available 30 minutes before tip-off.

Food, fun and basketball!

Watch the game on the big screens.

\$20 per person
Call 352-5235 to register
Pay at time of registration.

Proceeds benefit the Champaign County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship program.

Champaign Equine Affair

February 10

Champaign County Farm Bureau

Registration: 12 - 1 p.m.

Speakers: 1 - 4:30 p.m.

Admission: \$5 per person, 12 & under free

This mini horse fair is for equine enthusiasts of all ages and interest levels. A variety of vendor and information booths will be present as well as 12 speakers on topics including Western and English riding, mounted search and rescue, trail riding, driving, equine careers, veterinary medicine, shoeing, bits, saddlery, equine nutrition, clothing and tack.



CCFB offers health insurance with a personal connection

Champaign County Farm Bureau offers health insurance options as a membership benefit. By using CCFB's health care options you will receive personal customer service from Donna Huxtable, our in-house health insurance specialist. No automated phone answering service, no waiting for hours on

hold. You'll get real answers from a real person for no extra cost. You can choose from a Health Alliance HMO or PPO plan or a PPO plan from Personal Care.

For more information, call the Farm Bureau office at 352-5235 and ask for Donna.



x-treme agriculture

Just like extreme sports, agriculture thrives on high risks and even higher rewards. How can you win both? Perfect the "triple threat": grab all the know-how you can, tap into your personal power, and jump into the game at full speed. Attend IFB's Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference and you'll see how pushing agriculture and its issues to the limit can mean XTREME rewards for you.

For More Information...

Contact your county Farm Bureau or visit www.ilfb.org



Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference

February 26-27, 2007
Crowne Plaza
Springfield, Illinois



Here's To Good Health...Care

Is your health care provider hard to work with? Are you constantly on hold? Champaign County Farm Bureau offers superior customer service and plenty of choices when it comes to health care plans. Call Donna today to find out how to take advantage of Farm Bureau's health insurance options.



Champaign County Farm Bureau
Ph: (217)352-5235



801 N. Country Fair Dr. Champaign

CDL Class offered March 10

The Champaign County Farm Bureau will host a CDL training class on March 10. The cost for members is \$50. Non-members may register for \$55. To register, fill out the form below and return it with payment to the Champaign County Farm Bureau. **The deadline to sign-up is March 2.**



CDL Class Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Drivers License # _____

Check the tests that need to be taken:

General
 Double/Triples
 Air Brakes
 Tankers

Passenger Vehicles
 Comb. Vehicles
 Hazardous Materials

Member (\$50) _____
 Non-Member (\$55) _____

Lady Landowners
The Lady Landowners will not meet in February. The Lady Landowners meet the third Monday in March, April, May, September, October and November.

Women's Committee
The Women's Committee will meet at 9:30 a.m. on February 12 at the Farm Bureau.

Young Ag Leaders
The Young Ag Leaders will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 1 at the Tony Noel Ag Tech Center at Parkland College. The group will tour the new greenhouse and diesel shop. The business meeting and dinner will follow in The Andersons room at the Noel Center.

Farm Bureau plans new trips for 2007

The Champaign County Farm Bureau is offering a new variety of one to four-day trips for 2007. Following is a brief summary of the trips available. For complete information, please pick up a tour book at the Farm Bureau office.

Fun & Factories of Indiana

April 23-26
4 days/3 nights
\$535 per person for double occupancy
Trip includes 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners & 3 nights lodging.
Trip highlights include the following factory tours:

- **Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc.**
- **Biomet, Inc.**, a worldwide leader in the design and manufacture of joint replacement systems and minimally invasive surgical procedures.
- **RV/Mobile Home Hall of Fame Museum**
- **Hoosier Bat Company**, quickly becoming the bat of choice for major & minor league players.

- A **one-hour Architecture cruise** on the historic Chicago River as the professional guides showcase over 40 landmarks of modern American Architecture.

Dinner Theaters:

"Smoke on the Mountain"
At Beef and Boards, Indianapolis, IN
Wednesday, July 18, 2007 matinee
\$85 per person
Cheerful Americana, country and bluegrass gospel are served up tent-revival style as you experience "the way it was" on the 1930s Gospel circuit. Play the role of the congregation of Pleasant Church and experience an inspiring and uplifting musical adventure with the singing Sanders Family.

"Don't Dress for Dinner"
At Circa 21, Rock Island, IL
Wednesday, August 22, 2007 matinee
\$90 per person
Start with a married couple, add an old friend, a voluptuous mistress, and a kooky cook who gets mistaken for the mistress, and you have the ingredients for a slick, fast moving comedy!

Visit Chicago

June 20-21
2 days/1 night
\$335 per person for double occupancy
Trip includes 1 breakfast, 2 lunches, 2 dinners & 1 night lodging.
Trip highlights include:

- A **Step-on Gangster Guided** tour of Chicago. What fun we'll have as you're given the history of the Gangster Era as well as see some of the sights.
- **Tommy Guns Garage - Chicago's only Speakeasy Dinner Theatre for Dinner & Show.**
- A **step-on-guide** will start our day that will include delicious **hot chocolate** in **Pilsen**, followed by a stop in **Chinatown** at a **fortune cookie factory** and a tour of Chicago's Gold Coast area.

Branson for the Holidays
Our fifth and final trip of the year will be to Branson, Missouri. At this time, details are still being finalized, but we are planning a four-day trip in November.

Marketing Club
The Champaign County Corn and Soybean Marketing Club will meet on Monday, February 5. The speakers will be analyst Mike Georgy of Allendale Inc. and Dennis Bowman, U of I Extension Crops Specialist, discussing corn on corn considerations.
The March 5 meeting will feature Gary Schnitkey, University of Illinois Agriculture Economist, discussing crop insurance. The Spring WILLAM 580 Outlook will be March 12 at Parkland College.

Prime Timers
The Prime Timers will meet at 10:00 a.m. on February 8. The speakers will be the Flesor sisters who run the Flesor Candy Kitchen in Tuscola. They will talk about the history and current practices of candy-making.
The entertainment will be provided by Robert Ackerman and Bill Polson.
The cost to attend is \$4.00. Call the Farm Bureau at 352-5235 for RSVP.

Congressman Tim Johnson to speak at Parkland

Congressman Tim Johnson will report on national agriculture legislation, particularly the upcoming Farm Bill, and how it will affect central Illinois.

March 19 at Parkland College
8:15 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Presentation and time for questions
Andersons Room in the Tony Noel Technology Applications Center on the west side of the Parkland campus.

This event is free and open to the public.
Please register in advance by calling
(217) 351-2464.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

Two ads per membership per year. Ads will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Ads must be to the Farm Bureau by the 20th of each month. Commercial ads will not be accepted.

FOR SALE - 1988 Volvo Day Cab 315 Cummins aluminum wheels. Many recent repairs and spare parts. \$6,000. Rhino finish mower. \$1500. 1967 4020 Diesel Power Shift. Excellent. 1967 Chevy C-60 366 engine good. Needs repairs. Call 897-6672 or 202-6736.	stove, 36 in. white. 4 Blizzak tires, rims & hubcaps. MZ-01, 215-55-R16. 2-16 ft sections rolling harrow. Call 352-2323.
FOR SALE - Trailer. 34' x 71' x 18'4". Fuel tanks: 250 gallon, 1,000 gallon, pump. LP	FREE - Recently cut pine logs for campfires. Pick up in NW Champaign. Call 378-4181.
	FOR SALE - 2002 Buick Lesabre. 66,000 miles. Good shape. Call 595-5506 and leave message.