

Douglas County Agriculture Review for December 2018

By LARRY W. DALLAS
President Douglas County Farm Bureau

There has been very little field activity so far in December. Some fertilizer was applied, or stalks chiseled, when the ground was frozen enough to hold a tractor up, but for the most part, we have been at a standstill on field-work.

We have changed oil in a couple tractors and done some other maintenance. A heated shop is nice on a raw Illinois day, and we spend a lot of time in ours. We spent a couple days cutting back trees and sprouts along fencerows and house lots.

Most Mondays, we take a load of hay to Arthur Sale Barn for the hay auction. Down there we get a glimpse of a little different kind of agriculture than the corn and beans we see every day. I spent part of a day renewing my pesticide applicators license. To purchase and apply many of the weed and insect controls we use, farmers have to undergo training every three years.

This year, there were four hours of lectures about various aspects of pesticide labeling, use, and safety by University of Illinois Extension and then a 50-question test administered by Illinois Department of Agriculture.

There were around 200 people taking the training. The education is fairly intense, and the test isn't all that easy. The consumer should be assured that we use pesticides intelligently and carefully.

Another farmer sent me an email he had received from a person concerned that farmers would wear the soil out and be unable to produce food. I remember from history class that one reason given for the colonists in early America moving west was the soil was worn out and they needed new fields.

We have been farming in Douglas County for around 150 years. Productivity continues to go up, however, even after that period of time.

When the U.S. Department of Agriculture begins to estimate next year's crop size, they will use a trend line yield slightly higher than the preceding year and be close to correct, barring a severe weather problem. Better farming techniques, hybrid seeds, and the technology I have talked so much about all contribute to this productivity.

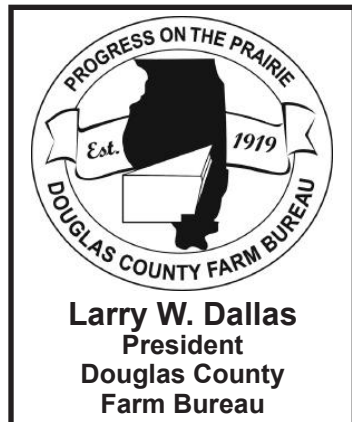
I have also talked a lot about soil testing to see what nutrients are in the soil and what need to be added. The big crops we have been raising remove a lot of nutrients and farmers are careful to replenish those essential factors for plant growth.

A bushel of corn removes about four-tenths pounds of phosphorus and three-tenths pounds of potassium, two of the most important plant nutrients, from the soil.

If these are not replaced, soil productivity will soon drop off. One philosophy of fertilization is to replace the nutrients removed when the crop is harvested. If we can couple fertilizer application with a yield map and global positioning application, this may be the best way to apply fertilizer.

Right now, most fertilizer is applied based on soil tests done in a grid pattern with GPS. A target is chosen for the level of a certain nutrient in the soil and fertilizer is applied to reach or maintain that level. A test every three or four years benchmarks those levels for us.

Some think that the use of fertilizer is masking the damage we are doing to the soil. I don't understand that point of view. We are maintaining the soil to be able to grow good crops next



year and the years after. The swampy prairie that covered most of the county prior to modern times was good at holding the soil in place and gave us the deep black soil we farm now. It wasn't a big food producer, however.

Modern agriculture is feeding the world and keeping the soil in shape to do that again next year as well. In reading farm publications, I find a great awareness of the need to farm responsibly and sustainably. I think the industry is making great strides to that end.

On the first weekend of December, Farm Bureau members from around the state gathered in Chicago to debate policy, reward activity excellence, and reconnect with old friends from past meetings.

We call ourselves a grassroots organization. The policy discussion comes from the bottom up as the counties surface proposed changes and additions to our policy book.

A president from each of the 18 districts in the state serves on a resolutions committee to look at these proposals and forward them on to the Annual Meeting.

In Chicago, representatives from every county debate the proposals that will make up the policy book. That book is 100 pages long and deals with just about anything that affects farming and rural life. It gives us and our representatives a template to follow in our discussions and lobbying for the coming year. The process will start all over again in March when a new Resolutions Committee is appointed.

In Chicago, we were lucky to hear from U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. He spoke to the delegates for half an hour and ate lunch with some of our people as well.

The Secretary has been very visible in the Corn Belt at meetings and conventions. He was of course upbeat about resolving trade problems and passing a Farm Bill out of the US Congress.

We have seen progress on both fronts. A Farm Bill did get passed in Congress, and China is back in the market for our soybeans. The markets were not impressed with the trade news and actually went down a dime the day the first sale was announced.

I have not seen a good summary of the Farm Bill and can't give an opinion on what the good and bad parts are.

An important winter chore for farmers is checking the grain we have stored on farm. We try to look at our grain bins about every two weeks and make sure the contents are in good shape.

The bins we can get into we walk around in, feeling the grain for moisture and heat. Some are so full we just open the roof hatch and look in. Those need to be emptied first since they can't be reliably checked.

On cold nights you can sometimes hear aeration fans running as farmers cool the stored grain closer to the outside temperature.

Thank you for reading about Douglas County Agriculture this month. Have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Douglas County Courthouse News

Douglas

(Editor's note: The following is a report of the traffic tickets, criminal charges, and law and divorce cases filed within the past week at the office of the Douglas County Circuit Clerk in the Courthouse, Tuscola.

Tickets and cases covered were issued to or filed against residents of Douglas, Moultrie, and Piatt counties and towns within the circulation area of this newspaper.

Real estate transactions listed below were filed in the office of the Douglas County Clerk during the same weekly period.)

Traffic Tickets

Wyatt J. Harper, 21, of Urbana was ticketed December 17 for driving while license is revoked on Harrison Street at Oak Street in Villa Grove. Ticket was filed December 20.

Tameka N. Hamilton, 28, of Mattoon was ticketed December 18 for operating an uninsured motor vehicle on Main Street at Sheldon Street in Arcola. Ticket was filed December 21.

Austin L. Lawrence, 21, of Mattoon was ticketed December 21 for operating an uninsured motor vehicle on Route 133 at Jefferson Street in Arcola. Ticket was filed December 21.

Meghan M. Creech, 37, of Paris was ticketed December 22 for speeding 70 mph in a 55-mph zone westbound on U.S. 36 one-fourth mile east of Brushy Fork River in Newman. Ticket was filed December 26.

Damon A. Daugherty, 24, of Paris was ticketed December 22 for speeding 71 mph in a 55-mph zone eastbound on U.S. 36 at Brushy Fork River in Newman. Ticket was filed December 26.

Gregory A. Grubb, 49, of Union, Missouri, was ticketed December 22 for speeding 69 mph in a 55-mph zone eastbound on U.S. 36 at the bridge in Newman. Ticket was filed December 26.

Lisa K. Price, 48, of Homer was ticketed December 22 for speeding 76 mph in a 55-mph zone westbound on U.S. 36 at Brushy Fork River in Newman. Ticket was filed December 26.

Diana Strain, 29, of Sullivan, Indiana, was ticketed December 22 for speeding 69 mph in a 55-mph zone westbound on U.S. 36 at City Line Road in Newman. Ticket was filed December 26.

Jason L. Beech, 22, of Charleston was ticketed December 26 for speeding 75 mph in a 55-mph zone on County Road 1505 North at U.S. 45 in Tuscola. Ticket was filed December 27.

Wayne Donald Berry, 53, of Villa Grove was ticketed December 23 for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident southbound on Route 130 at County Road 1150 North in Camargo Township. Ticket was filed December 26.

Frank Rodger Minelli, 34, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, was ticketed December 22 for speeding 87 mph in a 55-mph zone and driving while license is suspended westbound on U.S. 36 at County Road 400 East in Garrett Township. Tickets were filed December 26.

Tony W. Imgram, 25, of Chicago was ticketed December 26 for driving while license is suspended on County Road 850 East at U.S. 36 in Tuscola. Ticket was filed December 27.

Ronald R. Violante, 21, of Broadlands was ticketed December 22 for driving with no valid driver's license (expired seven months) and failure to wear seat-

belt on U.S. 36 at Park Road in Newman. Tickets were filed December 26.

Jason L. Beech, 22, of Charleston was issued an ordinance violation on December 26 for possession of cannabis less than 10 grams on County Road 1505 North at U.S. 45 in Tuscola. Violation was filed December 27.

Jacob L. Schmidt, 35, of Decatur was ticketed December 23 for driving while license is suspended on Route 133 at Jacques Street in Arcola. Ticket was filed December 26.

Tami J. Haines, 35, of Camargo was ticketed December 22 for speeding 74 mph in a 55-mph zone eastbound on U.S. 36 at West Newman Bridge in Newman. Ticket was filed December 26.

Brandon L. Gire, 26, of Villa Grove was ticketed December 22 for driving while license is revoked on Lincoln Street at Spruce Street in Villa Grove. Ticket was filed December 26.

Criminal Petitions

Rodney Fitzpatrick Jr., 25, of St. Louis, Missouri, has been charged with aggravated fleeing or attempt to elude a peace officer, a Class 4 felony. Fitzpatrick is accused of failing to obey a peace officer on December 22 by willfully disregarding the officer's signal to stop (oscillating lights on a police vehicle) and driving away in an attempt to elude the peace officer at a rate of speed that was at least 21 mph over the speed limit. Charge was filed December 26.

Shatavia M. Kirkland, 32, of St. Louis, Missouri, has been charged with burglary, a Class 2 felony; retail theft more than \$300, a Class 3 felony; and retail theft with prior conviction, a Class 4 felony. Kirkland is accused of entering a retail merchant's establishment, Carter's in Tuscola, on December 22 with intention to commit therein a theft; of knowingly and willfully taking possession of certain merchandise without paying retail price for the items (clothing) and with intent to deprive the merchant permanently of the merchandise; and of stealing merchandise from Carter's after having a previous conviction for retail theft in St. Clair County. Charges were filed December 26.

LaMarr D. McClellan, 40, of Decatur has been charged with unlawful possession of a controlled substance, a Class 4 felony. McClellan is accused of knowingly possessing on December 21 less than 15 grams of a substance containing heroin, a controlled substance. Charge was filed December 21.

Real Estate

Illinois Housing Development Authority granted Gaylord F. Wallace and Melissa D. Wallace a release for Lots 4 and 5 in

Block 20 of the Original Town, Tuscola (309 East Pembroke Street, Tuscola).

First Neighbor Bank granted Philip M. Bowles a release for Lot 5 of Rose's Addition, Newman (503 S. King, Newman).

State Bank of Arthur, trustee of Trust 454, granted James L. Yoder and Carol L. Yoder a trustee's deed for a parcel in 30-15-7 (700 Mill Street, Arthur) and Lot 2 of Progress Industrial Subdivision, Arthur.

Anna Mae Schrock, Irene E. Schlabach, Katie Fern Schrock, Barbara Ellen Helmuth, Lonnie E. Diener, Esther Marie Helmuth, Paul Eugene Diener, and Enos M. Diener granted Joe A. Yoder and Martha Lucille Yoder a warranty deed for a parcel in SW 32-15-7.

Anna Mae Schrock, Irene E. Schlabach, Katie Fern Schrock, Barbara Ellen Helmuth, Lonnie E. Diener, Esther Marie Helmuth, Paul Eugene Diener, and Enos M. Diener granted Owen H. Schrock and Katie Fern Schrock a warranty deed for a parcel in SW 32-15-7.

Anna Mae Schrock, Irene E. Schlabach, Katie Fern Schrock, Barbara Ellen Helmuth, Lonnie E. Diener, Esther Marie Helmuth, Paul Eugene Diener, and Enos M. Diener granted Mervin A. Helmuth and Barbara E. Helmuth a warranty deed for a parcel in SW 32-15-7.

Anna Mae Schrock, Irene E. Schlabach, Katie Fern Schrock, Barbara Ellen Helmuth, Lonnie E. Diener, Esther Marie Helmuth, Paul Eugene Diener, and Enos M. Diener granted Roger W. Schrock and Anna Mae Schrock a warranty deed for a parcel in SW 32-15-7.

Sharon J. Shiu granted Sharon J. Shiu and Wade A. Shiu a quitclaim deed for Lot 1 in Block 35 of the Original Town, Tuscola (302 South Parke Street, Tuscola).

Patricia Wright granted First National Bank of Ivesdale modification of mortgage for a parcel in 34-16-9.

University of Illinois Employees Credit Union granted Jacob Sanders and Melissa Sanders a release for Lot 1 in Block 4 of Finney and Wallace (706 N. Carico Street, Tuscola).

Nancy L. Melton and First Franklin Financial Corporation granted U.S. Bank assignment of mortgage for a parcel in Block 16 of Winston's Addition, Tuscola (210 E. Newkirk Street, Tuscola).

JP Morgan Chase Bank granted Ronald E. Wallace and

Kathryn A. Wallace a release for Lots 3 and 4 in Block 3 of the Original Town, Atwood (302 N. Main, Atwood).

Jordan Taylor and Rachel M. Taylor granted First State Bank a mortgage Lot 4 in Block 3 of the Original Town, Tuscola (108 E. Ensey, Tuscola).

Alan R. Shoemaker and Marcia K. Shoemaker granted Cathy Adkisson and Brett Adkisson a warranty deed for Lot 13 in Block 21 of the Original Town, Tuscola (308 East North Central, Tuscola).

Cathy Adkisson and Brett Adkisson granted Prospect Bank a mortgage for Lot 13 in Block 21 of the Original Town, Tuscola (308 East North Central, Tuscola).

Cathy Adkisson and Brett Adkisson granted Prospect Bank assignment of rents for Lot 13 in Block 21 of the Original Town, Tuscola (308 North Central, Tuscola).

Antoinette M. Cassano granted Dennis M. Mitsdarfer and Connie J. Mitsdarfer memorandum of contract sale for Lot 2 in Block 18 of Johnston's First Addition, Villa Grove (10 N. Oak Street, Villa Grove).

Dale Stuart and Sharon Stuart granted Gerald E. Reynolds and Nancy S. Reynolds a warranty deed for a parcel in Block 15 of Kelly's Second Addition, Tuscola.

Anna B. Kauffman and Gary E. Kauffman, executor, granted David E. Beachy and Ruth A. Beachy an executor's deed for Lot 63 of Morningside Third Subdivision, Arthur (506 Orchard Lane, Arthur).

Adlia Gingerich and Irene A. Gingerich granted David O. Chupp and Lori A. Chupp memorandum of contract sale for a parcel in NE 11-14-7 (North County Road 525 East, Arcola).

Nancy M. Von Lanken and Amber N. Von Lanken Bolt granted Austin W. Walters and Ashley N. Taylor a warranty deed for Lot 8 in Block 12 of Andrews Subdivision of Block 12 in Mathers NE Addition to Tuscola (609 East Newkirk Street, Tuscola).

Austin W. Walters and Ashley N. Taylor granted First State Bank a mortgage for Lot 8 in Block 12 of Andrews Subdivision of Block 12 in Mathers NE Addition to Tuscola (609 East Newkirk Street, Tuscola).

Farm Credit Services granted Elmer M. Miller and Loretta R. Miller a partial release for parcels in 11-14-7 and 12-14-7.

Farm Credit Services granted Elmer M. Miller and Loretta R. Miller a partial release for parcels in SW SW 12-14-7 and 11-14-7.

Farm Credit Services granted Elmer M. Miller and Loretta

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Area Deaths

Harold Lee White Sr.

Harold Lee White Sr., 80, of Mattoon passed away at 1:45 a.m. on Tuesday, December 25, 2018, at Mattoon Rehab and Health Care Center.

Harold was born on March 7, 1938, in Matteson, Illinois. He was a son of Ruben and Devona (Childress) White. He married Donna Sue Woodard on April 15, 1993 in Elgin.

Survivors include his wife, Donna White of Mattoon; two sons, Jerry White and wife Tina of Neoga and Jesse White of

Mattoon; two step children, Jeremy Hinds and wife Heidi of Villa Grove and Cindy Wilterwood of Mattoon; 11 grandchildren, Michele, Jerry, Brandt, Morgan, Collin, Madison, Kennedy, Grace, Xavier, Xander, and Skylar; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Harold White Jr.; one brother, Tony White; and one sister, Hazel Evans.

Harold was a member of Arcola Free Methodist Church.

Harold retired from Mattoon Township in 2000 with over 18 years of service. After he retired, he plowed snow for Illinois Department of Transportation.

Harold never met a stranger and was loved by all that knew him.

He especially loved God, his friends, and the staff at Mattoon Health Care. Harold will be missed by all.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Edwards Funeral Home is assisting the family.

BENEFIT FOR DAVID LANTZ



SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2019

2:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M. @ IT'LL DO IN ARCOLA

David has Stage 4 Stomach Cancer.

All funds raised will help him in his time of need.

Children are welcome to attend.

Face Painting 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

Live DJ 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Dan Janowski

Bags Tournament 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Entry fee \$10 per team.

Sign up by 3:30 50/50 prize

Silent Auction Winners announced at 7 p.m.

50/50 Raffle Drawing at 7:45 p.m. - Must be present to win

8 p.m. Hard Kase Band

PLEASE COME OUT AND SUPPORT DAVID!