



# Villa Grove News



Serving Villa Grove, Camargo and the surrounding areas!

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## Side Tracks

your express route to upcoming VG events



## Villa Grove News Presents Our 40th Annual Edition of Farm and Garden (Section B)

### Douglas County Agriculture : Good Supply of Soil Moisture, Flooding and Herbicide Decisions

Douglas County Agricultural March 2019

March has continued a lot like the rest of the winter with wide swings of temperature and plenty of precipitation. Last winter the field tile scarcely ran because there was little water in the ground. The tile is running this winter and surface streams as well. We have a good supply of soil moisture to start the growing season. The upper Midwest is experiencing flooding due to heavy snow and rain, in an area that struggled to finish harvest last fall. Most farmers would be happy with some drier weather.

Local grain elevators are beginning to waive the storage fees on incoming grain. Some grain is moving off the farm with that encouragement. We would prefer not to have to worry about the condition of farm-stored grain during the busy spring season. The grain in our bins becomes harder to keep in condition as the temperatures start to warm up. The cold mass of grain in the bins needs to be warmed to close to outside temperatures. Free storage at the elevator gives us a little longer to hope for better prices.

Prices continue to be a sore point. Even good news on the trade front fails to move

prices very much. The grain industry wants proof that our differences with China have been resolved, not just encouraging talk. World supplies of corn, soybeans, and wheat are too big for the current world demand, a consequence of several good crops in a row. South American weather has been uneven in their growing season. Large areas were first too dry than too wet during harvest, but they are going to raise good crops and add to the world grain supplies. Locally, basis, the difference between our price and the Chicago Board of Trade price, has not narrowed up as usual after harvest. Marketing for a profit is always hard and about impossible right now.

We continue to ready our equipment for spring planting. We will run our planter units on a test stand to make sure they are planting at the desired population and spacing. The individual units are adjusted to do that or components replaced to accomplish that. We would like our corn to be evenly spaced in each row and all at the same depth as well. Until the 1970s, farmers checked their planters by getting off and digging behind the machine. The first monitors simply showed if a seed was com-

ing out of each unit, via a flashing light. These were a marvel to the guys that had been guessing and digging their entire farming career. The monitor we use now is coupled to global positioning and tells us the population and spacing in each row and population can be changed in the tractor cab. Some will change the population as the planter moves through the field from one soil type to another according to a prescription planned ahead of time. A further advance controls depth by tracking down pressure on each row and adjusting to changing conditions. We would like evenly spaced plants all emerging at the same time. Electronics lets us do that.

Few people in this area got all of their fall work done to prepare for this 2019 crop. Northern areas got even less done. This will put a big rush on for this spring. Some still want to do major tillage. Some are changing the way they approach fertilization and planting. We would like to get more of our nitrogen on before we plant. We got that done in February last year. It does not look like we will be in the field early this year unless weather trends change a lot.

Nitrogen logistics figure

prominently in late spring when little fall work was done. Nitrogen can be applied in the fall, before planting or after the crop is up. More farmers are using a combination of all three. In this area, three forms of nitrogen are used: a gas, a liquid, and a dry formulation. In what we think of as a normal year, the part of Illinois above Route 16 will put a lot of their nitrogen on in the fall as anhydrous ammonia, the gas version. Southern Illinois farmers generally do not put nitrogen on in the fall. Warmer temperatures south of here increase the chance of losing it out of the soil. Little nitrogen went on in this area last fall so we will be competing with the farmers in Southern Illinois for a finite supply of anhydrous ammonia. The infrastructure can't supply enough product for the whole state to run at the same time. The best situation would be if some areas of the state would dry out ahead of others and allow them to finish nitrogen before other areas start. Of course, we would like East Central Illinois to be that area that runs first.

As noted, nitrogen applications can be made at various times during the growing season. That flexibility will help us get the crop planted on time. We have always

hesitated to go to a complete after planting program of fertilization in case the weather doesn't give us time for that trip. There have been years when too much rain kept us out of the field to make herbicide applications in a timely manner. Some operations don't hesitate to plan to apply their nitrogen that way. It is just something we aren't willing to try. Switching to the other forms is also a possibility, but these are generally more expensive than anhydrous ammonia.

We are making herbicide decisions too, and looking at how that can be done if our spring work is telescoped together. A program of a total over the top weed killers would let us go plant and not worry about the sprayer staying ahead of the planter. There is a multitude of products with various strengths and weaknesses. Farmers have a lot of decisions to make before we go to the field. We hope we are making the right ones. The crop will get planted. We hope it is in a timely manner. Thank you for reading about Douglas County agriculture this month.

Larry W. Dallas  
President  
Douglas County Farm Bureau

VG Lions Club  
Pork Chop Dinner and Cash Giveaway  
4/6 from 5-7 @ School Cafeteria  
Contact Lions Club Member for Info or Tickets

Free Showing of "I Can Only Imagine" movie  
3/31--4:00 pm @ VGUMC

4/4 @ 6pm - Henson Park  
VG Blue Devils 11/12U  
Travel Team Baseball

4/8 VG PTO Meeting  
6:30pm

4/10 VG School Early Dismissal 1:30pm

4/10 VG Booster Club Meeting 6pm

4/11 @ 6pm - Henson Park  
VG Blue Devils 11/12U  
Travel Team Baseball (DH)

4/12 VG School 4th Quarter Midterm

4/13 Camargo Township District Library Annual Dinner & Mystery Play @ Villa Grove School 6pm

4/14 @ 1pm - Henson Park  
VG Blue Devils 11/12U  
Travel Team Baseball (DH)

4/14 Palm Sunday

4/14 Community Easter Contata 4pm @ First Christian Church

4/15 School Board Meeting 6pm

4/18-22 VG School Spring Break

4/19 Good Friday Service of the Nails @ CUMC 7pm

4/19 Good Friday

4/21 Easter

4/21 Ministerial Service Sunrise Service @ CUMC 7am

4/21 Annual VFW Easter Egg Hunt @ Henson Park 2pm

4/23 VG K-3 Spring Concert 6pm

4/30 Spring Band Concert Grades 5-12 @7pm

5/7 VGHS Honors Banquet

5/17-18 Villa Grove Town Wide Garage Sales

If you have an upcoming event that you would like to see featured in Sidetracks, email us at vgnews@mchsi.

### Villa Grove Students Venture to the State Capital



March 27th the Villa Grove Junior Devilette's were recognized for their State Championship win by Senator Chapin Rose during Senate session at the Capitol in Springfield.



8th Grade trip to the State Capital on March 25

### ISP Urge Motorists to Follow "Move Over" Law

WITH SURGE OF CRASHES INVOLVING ISP TROOPERS, GOV. PRITZKER AND ILLINOIS STATE POLICE URGE MOTORISTS TO FOLLOW "MOVE OVER" LAW

Chicago, IL - With a recent surge in crashes involving ISP troopers, Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois State Police (ISP) are urging motorists to respect the Move Over Law and use caution when approaching emergency vehicles on interstates and roads.

So far in 2019, 14 ISP troopers have been struck by vehicles when they were pulled over to respond to highway incidents with their emergency lights activated. The tragic death of Trooper Christopher Lambert is among the 14 incidents, which far exceeds last year's total of eight troopers. "I'm here today to say to drivers on the roads: When you see a state trooper's vehicle on the side of the road, slow down, obey the law and move over," said Gov. JB Pritzker. "Our state troopers are putting their lives on the line every single day. They are our heroes and first responders, keeping people safe. No driver needs to get to their

destination so quickly that they need to put a trooper's life at risk. No one's time or convenience is worth more than the lives of our state's heroes."

Also known as "Scott's Law," the Move Over Law was enacted in 2002 in memory of Lieutenant Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department. LT Gillen was struck and killed on December 23, 2000, by an intoxicated driver on the Dan Ryan Expressway while assisting at a crash scene.

"This alarming number already exceeds last year's total of 8 and averages more than one Trooper a week. It is simply unacceptable. And while this issue is directly impacting our agency, we are one of many roadway users affected by this problem," said ISP Acting Director Brendan Kelly. "Scott's Law not only applies to emergency vehicles, but also includes the general public who are having car troubles and are stuck roadside until help arrives. Our hope in bringing this to the public's attention through our struggle, is that it increases the safety of all

roadway users in their time of need. Our agency, with the support of Governor Pritzker, has made this issue a priority."

The Move Over Law requires motorists to approach with caution and yield to emergency vehicles, including highway maintenance vehicles displaying oscillating, rotating or flashing lights. Drivers must change lanes if they can do so safely or reduce speed and proceed with caution if unable to change lanes.

Though not an exhaustive list, this would include police, fire, emergency medical system, construction and towing vehicles. As of January 1, 2017, the law was also updated to include the general public when they are roadside with their emergency four-way flashers activated.

Violators of the Move Over Law are mandated to appear in court. Additionally, they can be fined not less than \$100 or more than \$10,000 and have their driver's license suspended for up to two years if the violation involves injury to another.

### Villa Grove News Coloring Contest Easter Basket Giveaway



The Villa Grove News will be giving away two very full Easter baskets, including pizza from Monicals, this year. We will be awarding a basket to one boy and one girl. To enter tear out the Easter coloring sheet from the April 10 edition of the Villa Grove News, Color and return by April 18. Contest is for children ages 10 and under. Baskets will be awarded on April 19. Baskets and coloring page possible thanks to our page sponsors and to Monicals Pizza of Villa Grove.