



Sustaining & promoting the growth of agriculture in Knox County through education & philanthropy.

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Knox County Farm Bureau Foundation

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2025 Foundation Summer Intern



Hello! My name is Makenna Walker and I am your Knox County Farm Bureau Foundation Summer Intern this year! I am so excited and can't wait to learn all things Farm Bureau and build my network! I am also looking forward to Farm Safety Camp and attending the Illinois Young Leader's Ag Industry tour to Michigan!

I live in Woodhull, Illinois, just off the Henry/Knox County line and I graduated from AlWood High School in 2024. I have been working on my family's corn and soybean operation since I was 14. I am also a part of the Henry County Farm Bureau Young Leaders and the Women's Committee Leadership Team. When I have free time, I enjoy taking pictures, especially around the farm, shopping and hanging out with my friends, and working at either the Filling Station in Bishop Hill, or Henn House BBQ in Altona.

In August I will go back to Black Hawk East for my second year in the Agriculture Business and Agriculture Production career programs. I expect to graduate with two Associate of Applied Science degrees in May of 2026. I will most likely return to BHE to complete my Associate of Science degree and then transfer to a bigger university. Before coming to the Farm Bureau, I interned with West Central FS in Wataga and enjoyed serving the growers of Knox County in that way and can't wait to continue serving you all as the Farm Bureau intern!

SAVE THE DATE!



9TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

07.25.25 | OAK RUN GOLF COURSE

REGISTRATION & DETAILS AT
WWW.KNOXCFB.ORG



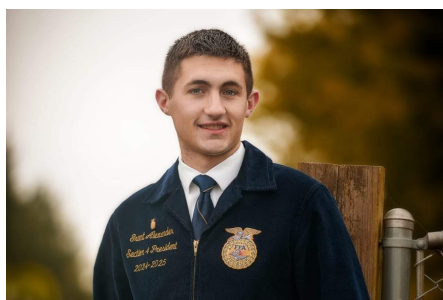
Scholarship Winners Announced

The Knox County Farm Bureau Foundation is proud to announce the 2025 Scholarship Winners. Six Knox County students were awarded scholarships to continue their education in agriculture. Freshmen in college are eligible for the Thomas Lincoln and one of the O'Connor Family Scholarships. Current college students are eligible for the second O'Connor Family Scholarship and the KCFB Foundation Scholarship. A second KCFB Foundation Scholarship and a third O'Connor Family Scholarship are awarded at the discretion of the Foundation Board of Directors. The O'Connor Family Scholarship is given by siblings Thomas, Marty, Teri, Ang, Michael, and Brian.

College Freshmen Scholarship Award Winners



Thomas Lincoln Scholarship
Abigail is the daughter of KCFB Members, Jarid and Christinel Cain. She is a 2025 graduate of ROWVA High School and was active in many extracurricular activities. In the fall, she plans to attend Iowa State University.



O'Connor Family Scholarship
Grant is the son of KCFB Members, Eric & Erica Alexander. He is a 2025 graduate of ROWVA High School. Grant will be attending the University of Illinois, living in Farmhouse Fraternity while majoring in Ag Education to become a High School Ag Teacher.



O'Connor Family Scholarship
Erin Welch is the daughter of KCFB Members, Michael and Teresa Welch. She is a 2025 graduate of ROWVA High School. Erin will be attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She will be studying in the COA majoring in Food Science.

Current College Students Scholarship Award Winners



KCFB Foundation Scholarship
Katie, a KCFB Member, is the daughter of Doug and Nici Baker of Maquon. She is a junior at Western Illinois University, majoring in Agricultural Education. Katie is the secretary of Collegiate FFA and AgVocators, and a member of the Collegiate Farm Bureau and the Ag Mech Club.



O'Connor Family Scholarship
Clara is the daughter of KCFB Farm Bureau Members, John and Jessica Kuelper. She is a sophomore at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, studying Agricultural Consumer Economics and concentrating in Public Policy and Law. Clara plans to pursue a career in agricultural law after attending law school.



KCFB Foundation Scholarship
Ali is the daughter of KCFB Members, Jarid and Christinel Cain. She will be a senior at St. Ambrose University, where she is double majoring in Accounting and Business Management, with a minor in Entrepreneurship. This summer, Ali will begin her fifth accounting internship as she continues pursuing her goal of becoming an ag-focused accountant.

Agriculture in the Community Grant

The Knox County Farm Bureau Foundation Board is pleased to announce the May 2025 Agriculture in the Community Grant recipient. The Galesburg FFA Chapter has been awarded \$1,975.29 for their project, Galesburg FFA/OSF Community Garden. The community garden will be a partnership between Galesburg schools and OSF St. Mary's Hospital. FFA students will be responsible for planting and maintaining the garden, allowing students to have a Supervised Agriculture Education (SAE) project no matter where they live within the Galesburg School District. When ready, the community garden will be open to anyone within the Galesburg community or anyone that provides volunteer assistance within the garden.

The next round of Agriculture in the Community Grant applications are due August 1, 2025. Remember, these grants are available to teachers, FFA Chapters & 4-H Clubs, and community groups wanting to signify the importance of agriculture in Knox County.

Teachers- planning for next school year and have a lesson plan outside of the normal Ag in the Classroom visit?

FFA Chapters & 4-H Clubs- have a field trip idea that would improve groups members knowledge of agriculture?

Community Groups- have an idea that brings agriculture to the community?

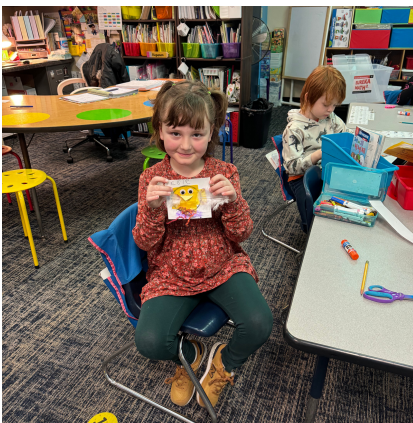
Questions regarding the grant application should be sent to knoxcfb@knoxcfb.org The application and grant guidelines are available at www.knoxcfb.org under the Foundation tab.

Ag in the Classroom Update

The end of the school year provides lots of opportunities for Knox County AITC coordinators. Chick rearing, an Adopt a Classroom visit, GHS Ag Fair, pumpkin planting, and the Memorial Day parade kept Mrs. Green and Mrs. Hennenfent busy during the month of May.

CHICKS ACROSS THE COUNTY

This year, thirty teachers across Knox County taught students about poultry by incubating chick eggs. More than 100 baby chicks were returned to the farmers that helped provide the eggs. Many chicks were rehomed locally. Mrs. Warning, from Silas Willard, requested some duck eggs with her chick eggs. She wanted her second-grade students to also learn about ducks. Every teacher and classroom appreciated the opportunity to learn about poultry.



ADOPT A CLASSROOM - St. Symphorosa

In early May, Mrs. Green and Ms. Aggie visited St. Symphorosa, our Adopt a School in Chicago. St. Symphorosa is not far from Midway airport. It is always exciting to visit students and teachers who have so many good questions about agriculture. This visit was special to Knox County AITC because we were able to celebrate with the kindergarten teacher at her retirement party. Dawn Gasior has been a loyal promoter of AITC, as she has been our contact with this school for over 15 years. Through her we have visited not only her kindergarteners, but she would arrange visits into classrooms grade 1-4. She thanked us for helping students understand the world around them. To thank Dawn for her dedication, we presented her with a basket of Knox County made items and a favorite AITC book, Farm Boots!



GHS AG FAIR

In early May, GHS FFA students shared their knowledge of livestock animals with their classmates and many elementary classes across Galesburg. Students were also able to talk to farmers about tractors and see the awesome size of farm machinery up close! Mrs. Green brought along her milking cow Daisy Mae. All ages took advantage of milking a cow by hand!



FARMER SPOTLIGHT

Locally, our friend Lynn Shimmin provided us with more than twenty dozen eggs this year! Every year Farmer Shimmin has been willing to help Knox County AITC coordinators bring chicks into classrooms. He keeps in regular contact with the coordinators to be sure every class that wants to raise chicks is provided with eggs. Farmer Shimmin has been active in many organizations in Warren County. He has been active in 4-H leadership positions, fair boards, and even being an AITC presenter. His desire to share agriculture extends beyond the Warren County line where he lives. He is a reliable partner in helping Knox County classrooms experience raising chicks every year.

Because so many classrooms wanted to raise chicks, it became obvious that we needed another farmer to help with eggs. Lindsey Goedeke of G5 Cattle & Coop, stepped up and helped AITC by contributing 7 dozen eggs. A great big thank you to both of our farmers for making this experience possible.

PUMPKIN PLANTING

Thank you to Rich DeSchepper and John Chandler along with other West Central FS employees who hosted fourth grade classes from Steele School in Galesburg at the West Central FS Education and Technology Center on May 6, 2025. Over one hundred students participated in the five sessions which included planting varieties of pumpkins in the field and some to take home, viewing types of farm equipment, viewing types of seeds available to farmers and touring the interior and exterior of the facilities. We are hoping to have those students return for the pumpkin harvest in the fall. It was a great day connecting education and agriculture!



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

It was a great day for a parade, and once again our avid parader Dale Carlson provided a tractor and wagon for the AITC coordinators. The weather was perfect, we were a few entries behind the GHS band, and the kids loved seeing Mrs. Green and Mrs. Hennenfent. Mrs. Green's granddaughter Stella rode along and had a great time tossing candy to all the kids! It was another successful day promoting Ag in the Classroom!



**End of the Year
Knox County
Ag in the
Classroom
Numbers**

**14,381 Students
Impacted**



**741 Teachers
Impacted**

If you are interested in donating to the Knox County Farm Bureau Foundation, please contact the Knox County Farm Bureau Office at 309-342-2036 or knoxcfb@knoxcfb.org. You may also donate safely online using the Knox County Farm Bureau Foundation PayPal account on our website at www.knoxcfb.org/foundation or scan our QR Code:

