

Bulletin

Promoting the understanding of agriculture in our community to improve the profitability of farmers and enrich the quality of life in Knox County

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April 2020

No. 4

MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS

KCFB cares about the health and safety of our community and members. Our members are our top priority and we will continue to offer services while keeping everyone's health in mind. If you need to drop off a payment or anything else, please utilize our drop box to the right of our double doors. If you need to schedule an appointment or if there is an emergency, contact 309.342.2036 (calls are forwarding) or knoxcfb@knoxcfb.org

Illinois Agriculture In The Classroom Offers Online Lessons And Resources

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois families doing their part to social distance during school and restaurant closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic can add additional agriculture educational activities to the digital resources at their fingertips.

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) and the state agriculture education system are offering online lessons and resources to help educators, parents and students, especially while schools statewide are closed.

An IAITC video lesson is a new addition to the program's selection of online ag-related lessons and resources. IAITC plans to provide videos at noon Monday through Friday featuring simple lesson demonstrations that link to a worksheet, website and other resources. A milk lesson video was first in the new lineup.

"We think many schools are looking to find alternative

activities or e-learning activities," said Kevin Daugherty, Illinois Center for Agricultural Engagement director. Along with providing teachers and students another educational option, "this helps integrate agriculture into curriculum," said Daugherty.

Second in the IAITC lineup is a 10 a.m. Monday through Friday poultry embryology activity featuring chickens being hatched.

Information and resources may be found on IAITC's website <http://www.agintheclassroom.org> or Facebook page. County literacy coordinators will also share information through social media.

Video lessons can be found on <https://beyondthebarndoor.wordpress.com>

For more information about the new segment or other IAITC educational offerings, contact Kevin Daugherty at 309-557-3334 or kdaugherty@ilfb.org.

Coronavirus Aid Package Critical for Farmers

March 25, 2020
American Farm Bureau

The coronavirus aid package negotiated by Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and agreed to by Senate leaders and the White House will help ensure farmers and ranchers are able to continue feeding America in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis.

The following statement may be attributed to American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall:

"Thanks to Leader McConnell and all the senators who diligently fought for farmers and ranchers to ensure they have our backs in the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis. The aid to farmers in this package, including funding for the CCC and the Office of the Secretary, will allow USDA to begin crafting an appropriate relief program for agriculture.

"America's farmers and ranchers face enormous volatility as markets and supply chains rapidly react to changes, but I'll say again that farmers and ranchers will not let Americans down. All members of Congress must understand that farmers have almost no control over the prices of the goods we produce, so fulfilling our commitment to America

requires a team effort.

"We urge swift passage and will continue working with Congress and the Administration to ensure there are sufficient resources to assist farmers, ranchers, rural communities and those in need in these very trying times."

Background:

COVID-19 impact on agriculture includes a rapid and unanticipated decline in commodity prices, the likely closure of ethanol plants, the dramatic decline in full-service restaurant and school meal demand, and the reduction in direct-to-consumer sales.

The agreement reportedly includes a \$14 billion increase in USDA's borrowing authority under the Commodity Credit Corporation, consistent with a long history of the CCC being tapped to responsibly support agriculture in times of crisis, and \$9.5 billion to assist specialty crop producers, direct retail farmers and livestock operators.

Forty-eight agriculture groups joined Farm Bureau in calling on Congress to expand USDA's borrowing authority under the Commodity Credit Corporation.

COVID-19 impacts for farmers FAQ's



During this time of uncertainty related to COVID-19, I want to provide you with the latest information on some of the most pressing member questions. Illinois Farm Bureau is in close contact with Illinois Department of Agriculture Acting Director Jerry Costello.

Last week, IFB worked to ensure agriculture was considered an essential business for the Shelter in Place order. We appreciate ag received this designation. This also includes ag suppliers, fuel providers, processing and distribution of ag outputs as well as other businesses that support or provide supplies necessary for farmers to operate. We will be able to put a crop in the ground this spring!

We are also receiving frequent updates from the American Farm Bureau Federation and our Congressional offices.

The work is intense right now. Keep checking Farm-WeekNow.com and the COVID19 landing page for

regular updates. Here are the highlights:

1. Agriculture is deemed an essential industry in Governor Pritzker's Shelter in Place Order. You do not need any permits or papers as you work on your farm or travel roads for necessary farming activities.

2. Stay tuned for details regarding the stimulus package. Congress is considering a variety of options to assist farmers.

3. IDOT has issued a 10% variance for hauling certain food supplies. This variance DOES NOT include live animals or grains.

4. The Hours of Service emergency declaration declared by FMCSA does provide hours-of-service regulatory relief to commercial vehicle drivers transporting emergency relief in response to the nationwide coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. It does allow hauling livestock in emergencies created by COVID-19.

5. Farm Bureau is advocating for H2A guest worker expirations to be extended and new guest worker processing to be expedited.

6. Pesticide applicator licenses that expired 12/31/2019 will be extended for another year. IDOA is developing an approach to provide training for persons who do not currently have a license. Stay tuned.

7. At this time, in-person classroom dicamba training sessions are no longer available as a precaution against the spread of COVID-19. Choose the on-line training program for the product you plan to use to provide certification for using dicamba in 2020. Click here for links to online training programs.

8. Market Maker, in partnership with IFB, Illinois Farmers Market Association, and Illinois Specialty Growers Association recently began piloting an e-commerce program for any farm or food business that creates a profile. It is a pay per transaction fee so there is no subscription cost to use but allows quick immediate connection to customers. We hope this is a helpful tool for those looking to connect directly with consumers.

Please send your additional questions to news@ilfb.org. We will be answering questions on the RFD Today radio program or you can go to the COVID-19 landing page located on the IFB website.

Farming is not closed. Illinois farmers plan to do our part to provide food for grocery store shelves.

Richard Guebort, Jr.
Illinois Farm Bureau
President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Knox County Farm Bureau would like to welcome the following to our organization:

Jenica Ball
Michele & Nunzio Capranica
Garrett Carroll
Jody Carroll
Melanie Cowman
Chelsea & Douglas Davis
Ericka & Tony Deppermann
Kimberly Dornbier
Benjamin Hathway
Patricia & Gregory Lardi
Robin & Thomas Lefebvre
Kylie & Zachary Maher
Morgan Kinder & Cole Measheaw
Julio Santoyo
Tammy & Larry Shane
Rebecca & William Sheldon
Barbara & Alfred Paulus
Mitchell Gibson
Robert Johnson

United States®
Census 2020

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Get Counted!

Census Day 2020: April 1

Once a decade, America comes together to count every resident in the United States, creating national awareness of the importance of the census and its valuable statistics.

It counts our population and households, providing the basis for reapportioning congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds to support states, counties and communities' vital programs — impacting education, fire and emergency response services, transportation, employment, housing, health care and public policy.

By April 1, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census.

You will have three options for responding:

New this
Census



Online



Phone



Mail

Need assistance completing your survey? Call 844-330-2020 to speak with a Census Bureau worker that can help you over the phone.



*Source: <https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2019-10/census101.pdf>

Members are always welcome at Knox County Farm Bureau's Board of Director meetings. They are held the third Thursday of each month. Please call for times.



April 2020 No. 4

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cooperating with the
ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
and the
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

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Office Hours

Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

We reserve the right to reject any or all news material or advertisements offered to this paper.

PLEASE REPORT ANY CHANGES IN YOUR ADDRESS TO OUR OFFICE.

Thank You
KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU



FARM STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATED ON EARTH DAY

Every April after an evening mushroom hunt in the timber, the sunset's glow across the home farm triggers a connective feeling to the land that I struggle to describe.

That connection developed while working side-by-side with my family on land improvement efforts. The passion strengthens at harvest, when we gather the land's bounty. The kids express the feeling when they request to fish and canoe the river that borders the farm.

This April marks the 50th anniversary

Legislative Update

We're in this together. That's never been clearer than now during the COVID-19 crisis.

As I write this, we are in the middle of the stay-at-home order issued statewide by Gov. JB Pritzker and vigorously enforced in Chicago by our Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

It is an eerie sight to see the empty streets of our magnificent city, knowing that the gleaming high-rise office towers are now largely empty. Traffic is so light you can slowly saunter across State and Madison streets in Chicago's Loop, once the world's busiest intersection. The huge Loop theaters are dark; world-renowned restaurants are closed, except maybe for take out and delivery.

Commercial districts in the neighborhoods, our local Main Streets, are empty, and we fear for the survival of the small businesses that provide jobs, economic vitality and sense of community.

We, like you, are in awe of those who cannot stay at home. There are first responders who keep us safe, medical professionals who work to heal us, transportation workers who make sure goods are delivered and that essential workers can get around, journalists who keep us informed, the National Guard

of Earth Day. It seems fitting that the world celebrates this day April 22, a time when (weather-willing) Illinois farmers work with the land and Mother Nature to plant from sunrise to sunset. I compare this day to Mother's or Father's Day, an official date to formally honor an everyday commitment, in this case to environmental stewardship.

Because in the 364 days preceding Earth Day, we appreciated and cared for the land with the same ambition. Solar arrays helped produce the energy that powers our home farmstead and grain facility. My family installed or maintained grass waterways, buffer strips and terraces in fields to protect the soil and filter water that moves across the land. Sensitive lands transitioned to wildlife habitat. Reduced tillage and often no tillage at all make the land less vulnerable to soil and nutrient loss.

Agronomists help us follow the 4Rs, choosing the "right" fertilizer at the "right" rate, the "right" time and in the "right"

troops who are deployed, food bank workers and grocery workers who help feed us. We are grateful to them and the sacrifices they are making.

And it's that last category, the food bank and grocery workers, that really brings it home that we're in this together. Where does that food come from? Who are the essential workers who make sure we are adequately supplied in Chicago with the food that remains in abundance in our stores (despite the periodic yet unnecessary hoarding)?

You!
The farmers and the workers in the food supply chain are often overlooked in the recitation of essential jobs, and we need to rectify that. Our grains and beans, beef, pork, and dairy come from your farms in Knox County and other parts of Illinois and the Midwest into our stores and into our homes. The flow has not stopped since the crisis began.

There is no telecommuting on the farm that replaces working in the field, feeding the livestock and milking the cows. There are no stay-at-home workers in the factories that process the food.

While people are suffering from coronavirus infections in every part of Illinois,

place on our farm's varying soil types. Technology in our tractors use global-positioning satellites for precise applications and operations. This reduces use of fuel and pesticides and maximizes use of seed and fertilizer in science-proven ways never available to my grandpa's generation.

In the house, we recycle eligible plastics, metals and papers. The kids and I pick up trash in country ditches, where we more often mow around milkweeds, the food source for monarch butterflies. Deer, raccoons and even a growing population of bald eagles co-exist with the farm, too.

On Earth Day, as every day, farm families like ours feel an obligation to keep the land in as good or better condition for the next generation of caretakers. I hope they find the sunsets on the land just as magnificent.

About the author: Joanie Stiers' family grows corn, soybeans and hay and raises beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.



Lamont Robinson
5th District
Illinois Farm Bureau
Adopted Legislator
Program

the concentration of cases is in our densely populated urban areas. The stay in place order helps limit the spread of the disease within our region, but also tries to contain it to our region.

One of the few things keeping us together and sane in our isolation is the ability to cook and share a meal with our homebound immediate family.

Baking bread at home is a new hobby. Trying and tasting new recipes is a fun diversion. You have helped sustain us in more ways than one.

So, while maintaining a safe distance, we are indeed smiling behind our masks and saying, "Thank you!"

Lamont Robinson, 5th District
Illinois Farm Bureau Adopted Legislator Program

The Best Tool for Helping Others Through Stress

By: **Adrienne DeSutter**
March 2020

Would you know what to say to a farmer you were concerned about?

Last Spring, my husband came home after a tough night on the farm. Equipment trouble had kept him from getting into the fields as early as he'd hoped, and after he finally got things rolling, a downpour stopped him from finishing the field...with only ONE pass left to plant. He was frustrated, tired, and feeling defeated.

When he walked in the door, I greeted him with my typical "how was your day, dear?" and he unloaded, sparing no unpleasant detail. As a concerned wife, I went straight into problem-solving mode: "You couldn't have just sped up and planted it anyway? What if you just leave it unplanted and call it done? Maybe next time you should take the meteorologist a little more seriously."

As you can imagine, this approach wasn't helpful. But problem-solving is unfortunately

the first thing we do when we're trying to help people. We want to fix the problems that are causing stress- because we care, and we want them to feel better- so we jump right into giving our 'expert' advice. And if we don't think we can provide good advice or resources, we just don't say anything at all.

Whether someone is having a tough day (like my husband), or going through a serious mental health challenge, there's a tool we can use that's even more effective than slapping on duct tape: we can empathize. By definition, empathy means "the ability to understand and share the feelings of another" (Oxford English Dictionary). It means listening, connecting, imagining what it would be like to go through an experience, and acknowledging that a person's feelings are valid, even if they're different than yours.

When talking with someone you're concerned about, worry less about what to say and more about showing genuine empathy. Be an active listener, paying close attention to what he/she is really saying. Don't be afraid to make honest statements, like "I'm concerned about you," or "I hear you, and I'm sorry this is happening." If you don't know

what to say, that's ok too: "I'm not sure what to say right now, but I want you to know that it's ok to be upset about this." Even sharing any changes you've seen can be helpful: "I noticed you haven't been sticking around much to chat like you used to, is everything going ok?" You might have to provoke conversation more than once, because as we know, it's tough for tough people (like farmers) to open up.

One of the coolest things about empathy is that you don't even have to agree with someone to empathize with them. It isn't about sharing your thoughts or feelings, it's about recognizing that thoughts and feelings vary. It's more important to express that there's no right or wrong way to feel, and you don't think any less of them because of what they're going through.

The worst thing you can do, is nothing. Don't ignore the feeling in your gut that something might be wrong, don't hope someone else will take care of the issue because you're not sure what to say, and don't wait for the distressed person to ask for help. Statistically, those in need of help the most are the least likely to ask for it, and they need us to be proactive.

Remember, you don't have to

be a doctor or a therapist to help someone going through a crisis.

In fact, one of the first and most emphasized skills that therapists learn during their training is empathy; not problem-solving, not finding resources, but helping their client feel heard, validated, and understood.

However, just as we would never be expected to fix someone's broken leg or cure their flu, we should recognize that the same provisions apply to someone living with a mental health condition. We play a critical role as "first responders" when crisis occurs, but it's important to help a person seek professional help if he/she exhibits signs of depression, anxiety, or suicidal thoughts.

Calling a primary care doctor, a crisis hotline, or a therapist is necessary, and if you believe someone's life is in imminent danger, dial 911 immediately.

Think about the last time you were stressed; what did you want to hear? Next time my husband has a tough day on the farm, I'll pull empathy out of my toolbox instead of problem-solving.

Chances are, helping him feel understood will go much further in reducing stress than any amount of advice I could give.

Getting To Know Your Farm Bureau Policy

How well do you know Farm Bureau policy? In order to better understand it, KCFB will run monthly excerpts from the 2019 policy book. Interested in learning more about how our policy system works? It all starts with you! For more info contact the office.

1. PHILOSOPHY OF FARM BUREAU

Illinois Farm Bureau recognizes freedom, the dignity and worth of the individual, equal opportunity, initiative and compensation for accomplishment, as basic concepts responsible for our country's progress and stature among the nations of the world. We believe the strength of every civilized society is the family. The encouragement of the family unit where morals, values, parental responsibilities, and strong work ethics are exemplified and taught is of paramount importance. This must be considered an individual and local responsibility. We

believe in the sanctity of private property and individual rights as provided by the U.S. Constitution, as the basis of American freedom and progress. The principles of our economic system derive from and are consistent with our religious values and goals. Through this system the American people have excelled and produced abundant goods and services for themselves and for people of other nations and have enjoyed widespread educational advantages and religious opportunities.

We believe in incentives, individual responsibility, initiative, freedom and the right to work without governmental dependence. If our organization and our country are to continue to be free and strong, we must act to determine our own destiny.

Each individual must assume active responsibility for maintaining and strengthening the principles upon which our government was founded and vigorously oppose all programs and policies which erode its foundation. We deplore

irresponsible acts of defiance and lack of respect for laws enacted by our elected governmental representatives at all levels.

Illinois Farm Bureau philosophy must represent the thinking of a majority of its members so their organization can achieve maximum effectiveness and influence. The autonomy of the local unit must be maintained to preserve a strong grass roots organizational base.

Illinois Farm Bureau is an organization through which farm people can work together and cooperate with others to strengthen agriculture's role and influence as a vital part of a strong, prosperous economy in a free America.


We will assist members in understanding, influencing, and adapting to the changing realities in production agriculture, the rural economy, and rural family life.

Our national life is founded on spiritual faith and belief in God. We favor leaving "In God We Trust" on coins and currency and "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

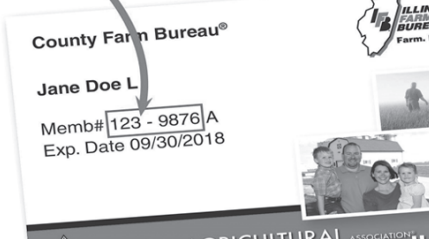
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The Knox County Farm Bureau does not intend the Membership Discount Program as an endorsement of any business or products/services on which discounts have been obtained, and assume no liability for any service rendered under the Membership Discount Program. Benefits may change without notice and some restrictions may apply.

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AGENT SPOTLIGHT



Jeremy Kleine

Name: Jeremy Kleine
Years with COUNTRY: 14 years as a financial representative;
Client for 30 + years
Office Address: 415 N. Henderson St., Galesburg, IL 61401
Phone: 309-342-3177
eMail Address: jeremykleine@countryfinancial.com
Spouse: Molly Kleine
Education: BA in Sociology from Knox College. MA in Sociology from Western Illinois University.
Community Service: Sunrise Rotary International, Former YMCA Board member
Designations: Investment Solutions Representative

Awards: All American 12 years. 1988 State Baseball Champions - Galesburg High School.
Mission Statement: If you see a turtle sitting on a fence post, you know it had help getting there.

Liability Insurance Important For Businesses

The success of any business depends primarily on initiative and hard work. These aspects of business are easier to control than the possibility of losing property to a fire or someone slipping and falling on the premises.
That's why insurance is so important for people who own businesses.
Extra consideration should be given to the piece of the insurance puzzle designed to protect assets if the business is negligent, sued or is found to be guilty for an injury or property damage of another.
Business owners without liability insurance stand to lose everything they have worked hard to build, including property, assets and even the business itself. Many organizations have been forced out of business as a result of a lawsuit. In today's lawsuit-friendly world, it makes sense to have good liability coverage.
Liability insurance provides protection against the cost of lawsuits that may result from accidents, which cause personal injury (libel, slander or defamation of character), bodily injury (a slip or fall in your business or someone who burns themselves with hot coffee) or property damage (a contractor,

for example, cuts cables or gas lines while digging a trench).
Liability insurance pays the cost of damages, attorney fees and other costs associated with defense of a lawsuit. This is true whether or not the lawsuit has merit.
Unfortunately, a magic formula doesn't exist to calculate how much liability insurance a business needs. However, with careful review of the liability exposures faced by a business, insurance professionals can offer guidance in making the right decisions about liability insurance needs.
Some examples of questions to ask when considering liability exposures include:
1. Do you own the building?
2. If not, what liabilities do you have as a renter?
3. Do you visit clients on their property, or do they come to you?
4. What is the value of your assets at risk?
Insurance is but one aspect of many things to consider when starting a new business. But, the decisions made about insurance coverage are some of the most important decisions facing business



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owners.
Insuring against possible financial disaster should be a No. 1 priority. Learning the basics, asking questions and working closely with a person you know and trust can help you make sound insurance decisions that provide peace of mind. Talk to a COUNTRY Financial representative about liability protection for your business.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The KCFB Board of Directors did not meet for the March meeting.

APRIL – EARTH DAY

Interesting facts:

Over the last 60 years, Illinois farms have more than doubled production (102%) while using 11% less land. (USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Survey)
Farmland acres covered by cover crops over the winter in Illinois more than doubled (123%) between 2012 and 2017. (USDA Ag Census)
Solar projects on Illinois farms nearly tripled between 2012 and 2017. (USDA Ag Census)
72% of Illinois farmland acres are no-till and reduced-till, while 28% of Illinois farmland acres are conventional-till. This is a 9.5% increase in no-till and reduced tillage practices since 2012. (USDA Ag Census)

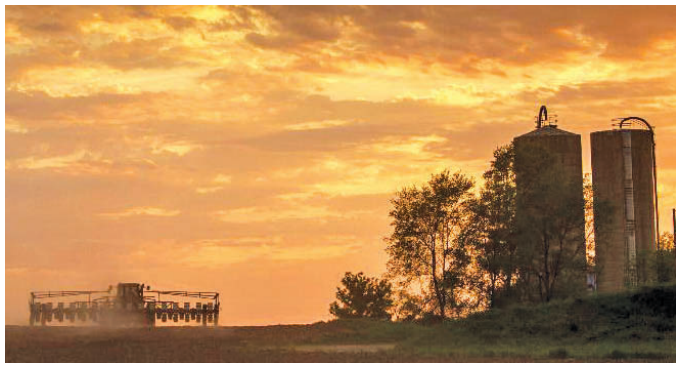
There are about 27 million acres of farmland in Illinois. (USDA Ag Census)
Additional background:

The Dirt on Soil Conservation

One of Earth's most important natural resources is soil. The soil beneath your feet can differ drastically from place to place. Soils are identified based on properties like soil texture (the proportions of sand, silt, and clay the soil contains), which can influence the soil's color, organic matter content, mineral content, drainage abilities, and other properties important to plant growth. With more than 600 kinds of soils identified in Illinois alone, it is no surprise that management practices that work on one farm in northern Illinois probably do not work on a farm in southern Illinois.
Farmers depend upon the soil in their



fields to support and nourish crops and pastures. In order to realize its full potential, farmers are knowledgeable about the types of soils in their fields and their characteristics. On average, it takes 500 years to form one inch of topsoil. Because of this slow regeneration, farmers are careful to implement soil conservation measures to reduce the risk of soil moving out of their fields. Soil erosion can occur by wind carrying away loose particles from the soil surface or by water moving along the soil surface, carrying loose soil particles along with it.
One of the most common ways for a farmer to implement soil conservation practices is through tillage – or lack thereof. Tillage is the preparation of land for growing crops. It's a mechanical process that stirs, overturns, or otherwise agitates the soil to prepare it for planting or to disrupt the growth of weeds.
There are three main categories of tillage: minimum-till, reduced tillage, and conventional tillage.
•**Minimum-till** includes practices like no-till and strip-till, which result in little to no soil disturbance outside of what is required



to plant the crop. At least 50 percent of the soil surface remains covered by crop residue.
•**Reduced tillage** (or conservation tillage) includes practices that leave 30 percent or more of the soil surface covered by crop residue.
•**Conventional tillage** includes practices that tend to work soil more deeply than reduced tillage practices, leaving less than 15 percent of crop residue remaining on the soil surface.
Beyond tillage, there are many ways farmers are working to enhance their soils. This includes planting cover crops, maintaining grass waterways and buffer strips, utilizing terraces within the field to reduce slopes, and practicing proper nutrient management.
Soil management is not a one-size-fits-all strategy. Even though fields might be in the same area, key differences between soil types and qualities result in farmers using different management practices on different fields or even within the same field!
Farmers also consider the types of equipment available to them and the

costs associated with adopting different practices. It could require a buying new piece of tillage equipment or spending time re-fitting existing equipment to make a new practice possible. Farmers frequently experiment with new practices on a small scale to understand how it fits into the other operations of their farm.
Ultimately, farmers are all working towards the same goal: to leave their land better than they found it, providing an opportunity for the next generation to step up and take over the family farm.
CONSIDER for county connections:
•Will your county be hosting a showing of Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman or another environment/conservation-related event around Earth Day? Advertise it here.
•Feature a local farmer (or two), highlighting their conservation practices (cover crops, bioreactor, etc.).
•Have any county-level data from the last ag census on environmental practices, such as tillage, cover crop use, etc. that's worth highlighting?

Hailey's Manager Update

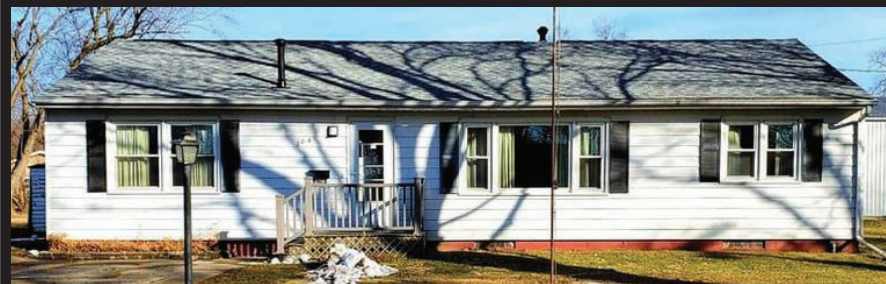
Last March in my Managers Update, I talked about the hard winter we had and the speculation going on about when planting would be able to start. Who would have thought we would be going through what we are now. Luckily, the Corona Virus will not affect planting that much- I hope. We wanted 2020 to be a better year and the virus has slowed some of our hopes down, but I still have a good feeling about the 2020 growing year for our farmers. It is hard to stay optimistic during this time, but I think that is what we all must continue to do! Happy Planting!

As for what is going on in my world, this

working from home thing is a little different. I don't feel as creative and I snack WAY more than usual! With that being said, agriculture does not stop, so we are all finding ways to serve our members and the organization from home! I hope everyone stays healthy and safe during this time!



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- Tree spade, grapple and tilling service.

Herbaceous invasive plants can be mechanically removed and treated any time of the year. Follow-up chemical maintenance is required to bring your land back to its original state.

Mike McKim

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Health on the Farm

By the Knox County Health Department



Heating Energy Assistance Program Still Taking Appointments

Knox County - With winter in full swing, some Knox County residents may be noticing that monthly increase in their heating bills. Fortunately, the Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) may be able to help. We can help qualifying Knox County residents receive a one-time benefit towards power, oil, and propane bills. The Knox County Health Department works in conjunction with the following companies:

- Ag View FS
- Amerigas Propane
- B & B Propane
- Blick & Blick Oil, Inc.
- Central Butane Gas Company
- Ferrellgas
- Gold Star FS, Inc.
- HickGas
- Herr Petroleum Corp
- McDonough Power Cooperative
- Michlig Energy, LTD (Cambridge and Manlius)
- Riden Farm Supply
- River Valley Cooperative
- Spoon River Electric Cooperative
- West Central FS, Inc.

LIHEAP is a state and federally



funded energy assistance program that provides one-time benefits to income eligible households to help with winter energy bills and for reconnection of energy service. LIHEAP applications are processed through a network of local administering agencies around the state. The program is administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Office of Community Assistance.

Applicants must bring the following documentation when applying for assistance:

Proof of Social Security numbers for ALL household members

Proof of gross income from ALL household members for the previous 30-day income period, including the day of application

A copy of current heat and electric bills issued within the last 30 days (if they pay for energy directly)

If applicant has received assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services, proof of TANF or other benefits, such as Medical Eligibility or SNAP is required

A single-person household can qualify with a gross (before taxes) monthly income of up to \$1,561; a two-person household up to \$2,114; a family of three can earn up to \$2,666; and a family of four can earn up to \$3,219. Benefits are paid directly to energy vendors on behalf of eligible households. The exception is households whose heating costs are included in their rent.

For additional information about the program, or to schedule an appointment please call the Health Department between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday at 309-344-2224, or go to www.liheapillinois.com, or call the LIHEAP Hotline at 1-877-411-9276.

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25th Anniversary Knox County Farm Safety Day – June 27th

The 25th Anniversary of the Knox County Farm Safety Day for youth ages 8 to 13 is scheduled for Saturday, June 27, 2020 at the Knox County Fairgrounds. Check-in begins at 8:30 AM and the camp will begin at 9:00 AM. Participants will rotate between safety sessions focusing on fire safety, first aid, grain safety, machine/power take off safety, chemical/poison safety, animal safety, ATV safety, electricity, and emergency preparedness. The day will end with a mock accident scene. Parents are encouraged to stay for the electricity session beginning at 9:00 AM and return for the mock accident scene at 2:15 PM. There is no cost to attend and every participant will receive lunch, snacks, a t-shirt, and a goody bag!

During the day, children will participate

in interactive activities that reinforce the importance of safety both on and off the farm, respecting parent's safety rules, and sharing safety tips with their family and friends. The program was organized by several people concerned about the safety of youth who live on a farm, in rural communities, and those who live in the city and may be visiting farms. This safety day is open for kids in Knox and surrounding counties.

The event is being conducted by the Knox County Farm Safety Day Committee in conjunction with many local businesses, agencies, organizations, and community members. Please visit the Knox County Farm Bureau website at knoxcfb.org to register by June 10th. Call the Farm Bureau office at 309-342-2036 with any questions.

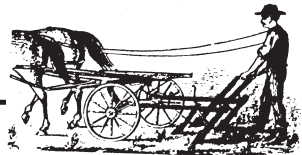
MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER OF THE MONTH



The Knox County Farm Bureau would like to recognize COUNTRY Financial Representative Patrick Young the top membership recruiter in March. Patrick signed 1 new voting member and 3 new associate members.

Call your COUNTRY Representative for all your insurance and financial needs.

Looking Back



Taken from the April 1930 Bulletin

When the Farm Bureau-Farm Management Service was first started, in 1925, there were 240 farmers from three counties enrolled in this project. At the end of four years, 440 farmers enrolled in these same three counties; lately another group of 220 have started on this project in Henry, Stark, Peoria and Knox counties.

Taken from the April 1940 Bulletin

United States farm imports during crop year 1938-39 were equivalent to the produce of only 7,564,000 acres, while farm exports represented produce from approximately 28,375,000 acres.

Taken from the April 1950 Bulletin

Eleven stops are scheduled for the annual livestock tour to see cattle feeding operations and some good hog programs.

PRIMETIMERS NEWS

The March meeting was cancelled. The April 21 meeting is not yet confirmed. Committee members will get notification prior to the meeting.



Mrs. Zellman's chart shows the 21 days of chick growth and the eggs are inside the warm incubator.



Mrs. Zellman has had her first chicks!



Angela Zellman, a kindergarten teacher at Costa Catholic Academy, took a delivery of eggs on March 11 but moved them home after schools closed.



Elizabeth Tucker, a kindergarten teacher at Williamsfield, has also been turning the eggs at home and uses this visual to show students the chick development inside the egg.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Meat & Potato Patties

Ingredients

- 3/4 pound lean ground beef (90% lean)
- 3/4 cup finely shredded potatoes
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons chopped green pepper
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 1 cup tomato juice
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup water

Directions

1. Combine the first six ingredients. Shape into four patties; press to flatten slightly. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Brown patties on both sides; drain. Add tomato juice. Simmer, covered, until a thermometer inserted into meat reads 160°, 20-25 minutes. Remove patties to a serving platter; keep warm.
2. Whisk flour into water; gradually add to skillet. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook, stirring constantly, until thickened. Spoon over patties. Serve immediately.

Gladys Klein, Burlington Wisconsin, tasteoffhome.com

If you would like to submit a family-favorite recipe, please provide the recipe with a picture to the KCFB office.

~ CLASSIFIED ADS ~

To place ads in the Bulletin or on the website, you must be a Knox County Farm Bureau member. Call 309-342-2036 or e-mail us at jreedy@knoxcfb.org by the last Friday of each month to place the ad.

FOR SALE: 2019 Alfalfa grass and grass round bales of hay, 1st, 2nd, 3rd cutting, no rain, priced between \$60-\$100/bale. Small square bales of straw for \$6/bale. Call 309.368.0561. 2/19

FOR RENT: Lakewood Resorts in Osage Beach Lake of the Ozarks, sleeps 6 people, \$950 for week of June 28-July 4, 2020. Call 309.368.0561 2/19

FOR SALE: Paperback westerns \$0.25. Call 309.344.3806 1/20

FOR SALE: 2013 30' cargo trailer, 9950# GVWR, 5900# cargo weight, \$5500 OBO. Call 309.299.2594 1/20

AVAILABLE: 20,000 bushels aerated/heated drying grain storage in bins available 6 miles north of Galesburg. Recent use with semis. Contact Paul at 916-335-3991, please leave a message. 12/19

If you sell your items, please contact the Knox County Farm Bureau office at 309-342-2036 or email jreedy@knoxcfb.org, so we can provide our readers with up-to-date information.

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