

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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March 2020

No. 3

WOMEN IN AG CONFERENCE 2020

Jeanne Bernick, to Headline Women in Agriculture Conference; Friday, March 27th. All women involved in farming and the agriculture industry are encouraged to attend the Women in Agriculture Conference, Friday, March 27, 2020 at Jumer's Casino and Hotel in Moline, Illinois. This one-day seminar empowers women within agriculture industries.

This conference, celebrating its ninth year, will feature keynote speaker Jeanne Bernick. Bernick is an agri-business consultant

and market Growth Leader for national business advisory firm, K-Coe Isom. She offers a depth of industry insights and works alongside clients with financial tools that help keep their farms and businesses not just viable but thriving. Her presentation "How Women Change the World One Farm at a Time" will focus on how the world is changing for the better as more women are coming back to their agricultural roots. Bernick will provide tips and tricks on leading as a woman working in agriculture.

She also co-authored the book, "Ceres Rising: How Women are Leading Farm Business."

The keynote address will be followed by a variety of breakout sessions that participants may choose from. Breakout sessions themes include Livestock Panel, Mental Health, Meal Planning, Contacting your Legislators, Dress for Success and Tax Planning.

The Conference will wrap up with Dr. Kim Kidwell, Dean and Robert A. Easter Chair in the College of Agricultural Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University

of Illinois. Dr. Kidwell is a proud Alumna of ACES where she earned a bachelor's degree in both genetics, development and agriculture sciences. She received her masters and Ph.D. in plant breeding and genetics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her presentation "Women Changing Agriculture", will highlight how women have served as the heartbeat of agriculture since the beginning of civilization.

Included in the day is an exhibit area, with many businesses and organizations offering materials, promotional

items, and give-away drawings, a breakfast and luncheon buffet and mid-day snack break. Conference cost prior to March 1 is \$60, after March 1, the cost is \$80. Walk-in registrations the day of the conference are \$100. Registration the day of the conference begins at 8am. To pre-register, contact any sponsoring Illinois County Farm Bureau or register online at womeninagricultureconference.com.

The Conference is sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women in Agriculture Conference Committee.

United States®
Census
2020



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

Your local County Farm Bureau will serve as a Census Access Center by providing a space to complete the survey online via an iPad for households that have difficulty with reliable internet access.

IMPORTANT:

iPad Census completion will be available by appointment only! Please call the office at 309-342-2036 to make an appointment with office staff!



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

Lawn Mower & Tractor Safety School

The Knox County Farm Bureau Young Farmers invite all 4-H and FFA members to attend the Lawn Mower & Tractor Safety School on Wednesday, March 25 at Birkeys, 664 US Hwy 150 E, Galesburg. Registration will begin at 5:30 pm and the class will start promptly at 6:00 pm.

This program is for all youth who may operate lawn mowers or tractors and is a prerequisite

for the Lawn Mower and Tractor Driving Contests that are held at the 4-H Fair in July.

All participants are encouraged to bring a parent, grandparent, or guardian. SMV emblems and other farm machinery areas will be discussed.

Pre-registration is not required. For more information, please contact the Knox County Farm Bureau office at 309-342-2036.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Rhonda Cook
Darla & Christopher Donovan
Shayna Scott & John Howard
Gerald Kirby

Barbara Root
Melody Shryack
Abigail Venvertloh
Farm Lovers Acres



NATIONAL AG DAY

March 24, 2020

AGRICULTURE: Food for life.

American agriculture is the foundation of our country. It's the backbone of a healthy and prosperous nation that's made possible by the hard work of America's farms and farm families.

Illinois Farm Bureau® is proud to celebrate the nutritious and plentiful contributions of our country's farms on National Agriculture Day.



Renew your membership today!

Thank you for being an Illinois Farm Bureau® member.



Please visit
www.myIFB.org.

This is a courtesy reminder about your membership dues. Whether you're an agribusiness professional or someone who loves to eat, you're part of farming! Your membership supports the work of Farm Bureau at county, state, and national levels. Members receive exclusive savings on vehicles, prescriptions, hotels, and much more.

All Members Invited!

Do you want to be more involved in Knox County Farm Bureau programs and events? All members are invited to attend the first planning meeting on March 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the Knox Agri-Center. Dinner will be provided so contact the office at 309.342.2036 if you'll be attending. We'd love to see you there!

Task Forces are Education and Outreach, Farm Business, Government & Policy, and Member Relations.

TEACHERS SAVE THE DATE!

Ag in a Day

June 9 - Quad Cities
June 10 - Peoria

Registration opens
March 15 at

www.aginaday.weebly.com

The schedule is still being finalized for this fantastic opportunity for teachers! The cost to attend is \$10 per day and will include lunch and refreshments for both days. Teachers are invited to attend either course, or whatever date and location is most convenient.

For more information, call the Knox County Farm Bureau office: 309-342-2036

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 4 Marketing Club, 12:30 PM, Pizza Ranch
- 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 18 Marketing Club, 12:30 PM, Pizza Ranch
- 19 Task Force Planning Meeting & Dinner, 6 PM, KAC
- 19 KCFB Board Meeting, 7 PM, Knox Agri-Center
- 24 PrimeTimers Potluck Lunch, 12 PM, Knox Agri-Center
- 24 4-H Foundation Picture Night, Knox Agri-Center
- 25 4-H & FFA Lawn Mower & Tractor Safety Class, 6 PM Birkey's, Galesburg
- 31 Knox Agri-Center Spring Clean-Up, 9 AM, KAC

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.



March 2020 No. 3

Published Monthly

KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU, Inc.
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



CALVING CAMERAS INTEND TO SIMPLIFY SEASON

How we care for our farm's small herd of beef cows gives off a nostalgic vibe: The lineage of the cows traces back to Grandpa's herd. Cows give birth to calves in the shelter of a century-old barn. Hedge posts harvested from the farm frame the pasture fence, and we paid the local FFA chapter to build the feed bunks in the cattle lots.

I love all that old-fashioned charm but share equal excitement with some modern technology about to bless a barn that predates electricity. Soon, a cellular hot spot and motion-sensing cameras will monitor activity in the calving pens.

Legislative Update BE EARLY

Advocacy starts with the grass roots – and the grass roots is you. In fact, as I talk to other associations, I tell them no one lobbies better in Springfield than the Illinois Farm Bureau.

Even though I am writing to the best of the best, I believe we can all get better at protecting our interests. With that in mind, there are two words to remember when advocating – BE EARLY.

"Be early" to get to know your legislators well because they can be your friend or your foe. I will never forget the first lobbyist who reached out to me my first day in office. That person got ahead of others with regard to relationship building. Build bridges of communication before a major issue comes to the forefront. Position yourself in such a way that when policies that affect your industry rear their heads, your legislators are only a phone call, text or e-mail away.

Also "be early" as issues appear on the horizon. When you see an issue coming forward, meet with your legislators and "find out their positions on that issue." Think about that last sentence. I didn't say, "Tell them your position." I said, "Find out their position." Any salesman worth his salt will tell you the key to selling is to first know what is in the mind of the person you want to convince. Then when you learn their concerns, share your concerns in a way that aligns with their needs and fears. Too often people come into my office and give a five-minute explanation that does not address my concerns or the concerns of those I represent. If they would have asked a few questions, they may have been able to convince me; instead, they run out of time and never effectively make their case.

I often tell young people there are four steps to framing an issue:

- 1) Get clarity of your objectives.
- 2) Learn the values of the person you are speaking to.

The men who built that barn in the early 1900s would have passed me off as kooky to tell of such a thing.

This quality-of-life improvement means my dad can use his smartphone to view live video and hear live audio from the calving pens while in bed at midnight. In fact, he can view the barn's activities from any place in the world where he has phone reception. He used to pull on the coveralls and boots to enter the chilly night to check cows with behaviors that signaled an imminent birth. He still may lose sleep during calving season, but only when the activity on his phone warrants it.

Tech-savvy cattlemen and women adopted this technology years ago, and we're late to the luxury. I don't expect these calving cameras to trump machinery auto guidance, my dad's favorite farm invention of his lifetime. But, fingers crossed, the system makes his top 10 list.

The potential impact extends to all of

3) Learn the objectives of the person you are speaking to.

4) State your objectives in alignment with the other person's values and objectives.

If you are going to take the time to advocate, take the advice of Abraham Lincoln who always spent 75 percent of his time thinking about what the other person would say and 25 percent of his time thinking about what he would say.

As you prepare to advocate this spring, be on the alert for bills proposing changes to The Livestock Management Facilities Act. Changes to this Act could result in reduced capacity for hogs, which impacts up and down the supply chain (i.e., corn prices and consumption).

Other bills of interest include changes to Illinois' endangered species laws, bans on traveling animals, a "harvest to home" pilot program, and a streamlined comment and complaint process involving renewable energy facilities and their operations.

All of these bills can be monitored by logging on to the Illinois General Assembly web page at ILGA.gov and creating an interest profile for yourself.

Your advocacy should also include being an engaged member of your local, state and national professional organizations. Read their newsletters and update e-mails. Respond to calls to action. Participate in lobby days.

Other updates on issues include:
Industrial Hemp

Late last year, the Illinois Department of Agriculture briefed elected officials, farmers, and agribusiness interests on the future of Illinois' burgeoning industrial hemp industry.

Illinois has been ahead of the curve, and the USDA finally caught up to the state when it released its long-anticipated rules on Halloween. This will make it easier for the state to implement and maintain the industrial hemp program and will help hemp farmers to operate their farms and navigate the USDA's and state's rules.

us in the family, kids included. Between afterschool activities and homework, the kids can check calving action from my phone, keeping them connected to the farm when middle school schedules sometimes limit it.

I remember those impressionable moments of my childhood when I watched Dad or Grandpa milk a cow to feed colostrum to a newborn calf struggling to nurse. On occasion, they pulled calves, assisting the cow with a difficult birth. I learned the reality that a few didn't make it. Yet, I witnessed healthy calves taking their miraculous first steps within just 20 minutes of birth.

Now, modern technology makes this viewing experience accessible miles from the barn.

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

It is important to note, however, that applicants are still required to pay an application fee of \$100, and once approved, growers must pay a sliding scale fee depending on the size and scope of their operations. Growers will also be subject to testing and inspections. Illinois is also beefing up signage requirements and security/enforcement for growers.

Minimum Wage
I opposed last year's minimum wage increase (Senate Bill 1), but that bill passed and became law. I continue to hear the frustration of farmers and business owners alike and their concerns regarding the costs to employers and the lost jobs this new law will cause.

As a response, I filed Senate Bill 3396 on February 13. Senate Bill 3396 would allow municipalities and counties to "opt-out" of the state's mandated minimum wage and "opt in" to a regional minimum wage. The local rates would be based on regionally-determined numbers that include cost-of-living and unemployment numbers/trends.

Rural areas and most areas outside of metropolitan areas would have the lowest rates and would allow municipalities and counties to set rates of up to 30 percent less than the current state-mandated minimum wage rates. I am hopeful that with the support of the Farm Bureau and Municipal League we can pass Senate Bill 3396. Please consider this article as my official request for your help and advocacy.

Please know my staff and I continue to be here for you and will continue advocating for one of the most important industries in the region. Together, we are one.



Chuck Weaver
State Senator
37th District

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.

11. WIND ENERGY

We will support:

1. Wind energy generation as a component of the energy portfolio of the U.S.
2. Continuation of the current property tax assessment method and rate for commercial wind turbines in Illinois.
3. Requiring the owner of the wind energy project to pay 100% of the property taxes assigned to the Parcel Identification Number (PIN) designated for the wind power facilities until they are decommissioned and re-classified to farmland.
4. The establishment of statewide standards for commercial wind energy conversion systems that provide

adequate protection of public health and safety, protect private property rights, and allow for reasonable development of commercial wind energy conversion system projects. Such standards should include, but are not limited to, property setbacks, other siting issues, performance bonds, and ensuring adequate funds are in place for decommissioning and non-payment of property taxes.

5. County Farm Bureau efforts to work with their county officials to develop appropriate commercial wind energy conversion systems land use regulations for their county.

6. Written notice of intent to construct given to drainage districts and affected landowners with tile outlets passing through the proposed commercial wind energy conversion systems; right to repair tile shall be maintained.

Don Teel Scholarship

The Don Teel Scholarship is a product of many who were privileged to experience the contribution Don made to agriculture. Members of Knox County agricultural organizations and individuals have joined together in hopes of helping provide an opportunity for young people to pursue higher education in an agricultural or related field.


Each year applicants will be considered for one \$500 scholarship. Applicants must have a home address within Knox County and be a past or present 4-H member. They must be enrolled as a full-time student in a university or community college with a declared agriculture or related course of study.

Applications are available at the Knox County Farm Bureau and University of Illinois Extension Office. Completed applications must be submitted no later than April 1, 2020 to the University of Illinois Extension Office in the Knox Agri-Center.

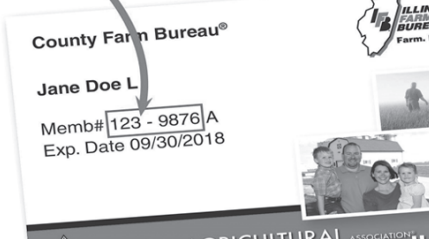
These area businesses are proud to be a part of our 2020 Discount Program for members of the Knox County Farm Bureau®

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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 Pizza Ranch Any Large Pizza \$11.00 Pickup/Carryout only 2590 N. Seminary St. 309-351-7860 10% at Grainger	 Hardee's Debbie Clague, General Manager Hardee's 913 E. Main Street, Galesburg 309-344-4558 FREE 20 oz. Drink with purchase of a 1/3 Lb. Thickburger!	STILL AVAILABLE! •2018 Knox County Plat Books •2018 Knox County Wall Plat Map •KCFB Past President's Interview DVD Knox County Farm Bureau 180 S. Soangetha Rd., Galesburg, IL • 309-342-2036
FREE shipping on internet orders. 1-866-217-3435 Your IFB #853007128 www.grainger.com	NOTARY SERVICES AVAILABLE at the Knox County Farm Bureau Office	 QualSight LASIK Quality, Choice & Savings You now have access to savings on the nation's most popular and successful elective procedure - LASIK eye surgery! Save up to 45% off the national average price for traditional LASIK. For more info, call 1-866-977-3012 or visit www.QualSight.com/-ILFB


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AGENT SPOTLIGHT



Ed Johnson

Name: Ed Johnson
Years with COUNTRY: 14 years
Office Address: 635 N. Seminary St., Galesburg, IL 61401
Phone: 309-342-1646
eMail Address: ed.johnson@countryfinancial.com
Family: Carrie - wife; Daughters - Cora and Ellie
Education: Bachelor of Science - Agriculture Business, Western Illinois University
Designations: Investment Solutions Representative
Awards: All American, Executive Club, Million Dollar Round Table

Mission Statement: To deliver honest, straightforward answers to everyone; turning clients from being customers into being lifetime friends.

Protect Your Life Savings With a Long Term Care Policy

At some point, almost everyone has thought, "That will never happen to me." However, unexpected events such as accidents and serious illnesses happen all the time. Do you have the financial ability to pay for long term medical care?

According to the National Clearinghouse for Long Term Care Information, 66 percent of the U.S. population will need long term care at some point during their life. Many people assume that Medicare, supplemental policies or standard health insurance policies will cover long term medical expenses, so they do not plan financially for their long term care needs.

Financial planning for long term care is important because long term medical costs are expensive. According to the latest survey by one of the most comprehensive and respected surveys in the industry, in 2010 the average annual cost for a semiprivate room in a nursing home is \$67,525 and \$75,190 for a private room¹. Those costs translate to an average of \$185 per day for a semiprivate room and \$206 per day for a private room. A home health aide who visits three times weekly can cost more than \$18,000 per year.

COUNTRY Financial offers² individual Long Term Care policies and a Long Term Care Accelerated Benefit rider on whole

life policies. If you are between the ages of 18 and 84, you may be eligible for a Tax Qualified Long Term Care Insurance policy. COUNTRY offers three plans with different levels of protection. Each is flexible and can be tailored to meet specific needs. These policies can be paid up in as little as 10 years or by age 65.

Comprehensive: Provides a wide range of benefits, including coverage for a nursing facility or home care.

Facility Only: Provides coverage for services from a nursing facility.

Shared Benefit: Covers expenses from a nursing facility or home care, and benefits both husband and wife.

The Long Term Care Accelerated Benefit rider can be added to a new whole life policy at time of purchase from COUNTRY Life Insurance Company®. This adds flexibility to your coverage. For example, if you need help paying nursing home or other long term care expenses, the policy's death benefit can be withdrawn while you are living.

Don't risk the possibility of spending your life savings on long term care. For help determining the right long term care policy² for your needs, contact a local COUNTRY financial representative.

¹National Clearinghouse for Long Term

With such a rough year behind us, it's easy and relatable to talk about financial pressure as the biggest source of stress. In a recent poll sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation, more farmers listed "financial issues" as contributing to their mental health than anything else.

While profitability is certainly a major factor when it comes to farmer stress, we must remember that it isn't just about money. It's so much more than the pressure to make a profit; it's never-ending work hours, it's consistent isolation, it's a non-existent separation between work and home life, it's complicated family tension, it's uncontrollable work conditions, it's impossible self-imposed expectations... and it's not going away just because the economy improves.

There will still be farmers struggling to find peace, and there will still be farmers struggling to survive. According to a recent study, up to 60-70% of young farmers have at least mild symptoms of



Teachers, you sacrifice for our kids every day.

Does any of this sound familiar?

- Grading tests long into the night after you've taught all day.
- Buying crayons, glue, scissors, and more, so your students don't go without.
- Weekends full of lesson plans and taking care of the class pet, instead of doing brunch.
- Keeping your own home running on days off, even when coffee isn't enough.

We can't take away the late nights or care for the class pet, but we can help you as a full-service provider, while offering an auto insurance discount created just for you.

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Amount and availability of discounts vary by state. Auto insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Preferred Insurance Company® or COUNTRY Casualty Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL.

0819-506HC_C-16907-2/4/2020



Care Information, 2010.

²Policies underwritten by COUNTRY Life Insurance Company, Bloomington, Ill.

Coverage varies by state. Policies include LTC-500, LTC-520, LTC-540. LTCAB and WL (OK12/04).

Farm Stress: More Than Money & Making It Manageable

By: Adrienne DeSutter
January 2020

As farmers continue to give 2019 a swift kick out the door, there are several reasons why I'm glad to see it go. There's one reason, however, why I'm glad it came: because of such a wild year, the agriculture community became more united in addressing farm stress and mental health.

We read numerous wellness articles and saw clips in the media. Ag organizations planned dozens of informational events and workshops. Farmers became more outspoken- in person and on social media- in sharing their own struggles and supporting others through theirs. There were podcasts, campaigns, resource hubs, training programs, and simple conversations about recognizing the issue and finding helpful solutions.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Knox County Farm Bureau was held on February 20, 2020

Education & Outreach – Becky King
The Education and Outreach Task Force met on December 19 and are planning a Spring Prep, Freeze, Cook fundraiser event and a Barn Quilt Painting class.

Farm Business – Todd West
The 2018 Plat Book is available and is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members.

2018 Knox County Wall Plat Maps are available for \$50 for members and \$55 for non-members. We have Peoria County Plat Books available in the office for purchase.

The COUNTRY Winter Crop Meeting was held on January 30 and had over 45 people in attendance. Knox County along with Henry, Mercer, Hancock, and Warren-Henderson counties have been awarded \$12,000 for a Nutrient Stewardship Grant to apply for an EPA watershed planning grant to receive money for farmers to implement

conservation practices.

Government and Policy – Joe Webel
Sign up for FB Act text alerts by texting the word FARM to 52886.

Member Relations – Jennifer Beard
Quota Quarter 2 ends February 29.

Foundation – Hailey Weyhrich
The Board will meet November 26. KCFB Foundation has a new logo. Scholarship and Internship applications are live on our website and due February 14. The next Foundation meeting is February 25.

PrimeTimers – Hailey Weyhrich
The committee met February 18 for a potluck lunch.

Young Farmers – Jeff Grady
The Young Leader Conference was held on January 31-February 1 in East Peoria. 27 members and kids attended. The FFA Acquaintance Night was held on February 5 at the Agri Center. West Central FS sponsored the event. Galesburg, Knoxville, ROWVA, and Abingdon Avon

had FFA members in attendance.

KAC – Terry Boydston

The Agri Center Board met on November 26. The next KAC meeting is February 25.

OLD BUSINESS

There was good response from the viewpoint survey given at KCFB Annual Meeting. The 2021 meeting is being planned.

KCFB discussed CAE Goals to achieve membership quota, take a Springfield bus trip, 65 FB Act members, and to complete three activities suggested from survey results.

NEW BUSINESS

The KCFB bylaws list only Activator approved politicians to advertise in the Bulletin.

The KCFB Legislative Luncheon is March 23 at the Packinghouse.

IFB will provide board development training on August 7 in Bloomington.

for your livestock when you have to be in the fields? Can you work on calming techniques BEFORE you find yourself in an upsetting situation? Can you take time to learn what situations stress you out most? Can you practice positivity and gratitude when you're NOT depressed to help make it a more natural response to adverse events? Can you take steps to improve your overall health during slower seasons to improve your energy and self-esteem during tougher times?

Unlike 2019, farm stressors aren't going away any time soon. But just as the farm maintenance that occurs during the off-season is essential for running a productive operation during busy months, the work you put into your mental wellness during less intense times is essential for productively coping with stress. With proper maintenance, you can equip your mental health to be prepared for anything this year throws at you.

Board Meeting Attendance

NAME	Dec	Jan	Feb
Beard, Jennifer	P	P	P
Bewley, Beau	P	P	P
Bohnert Yoder, Tara	P	A	P
Boydston, Terry	P	P	P
Cain, Jarid	P	P	P
DeSutter, Drew	P	A	P
Emken, Kurt	*	*	P
Engel, Lori	P	P	P
Goedeke, Phil	A	P	A
Grady, Jeff	P	P	P
Hennenfent, Matt	P	P	P
Hulsizer, Matt	P	A	P
King, Becky	P	P	P
Link, Jeff	A	P	P
Link, Nathan	P	P	P
Nelson, Brian	*	*	P
O'Connor, Tom	P	P	P
Stevens, Monica	P	P	A
Strom, Grant	P	P	P
Swanson, Brett	P	A	P
West, Todd	P	A	P

*New Director

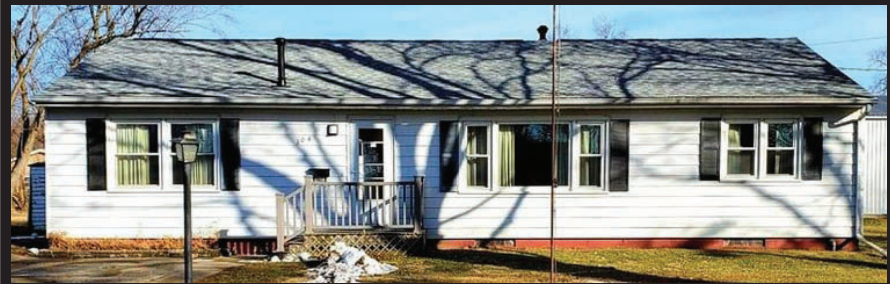
Hailey's Manager Update

March is going to be such a great month! We get to celebrate National Ag Day on the 24, Spring is a little closer, and planting is approaching which means things will start growing (let's be optimistic)! Not only will the grass and plants be growing, but so will our programs during our Program of Work Board Meeting this month. Knox County volunteers never cease to amaze me with all the ideas they come up with to promote agriculture and provide benefits to our members. I know our Task Forces and Young Farmers are working on some great ideas for this new year and are excited to share them with you

all. Of course, we will be doing the same Farm Bureau programs you love, like events at the County Fair and the Steve Johnson seminar. If you ever have ideas of programs we should host or benefits we should add, feel free to stop by the office and let Jackie or me know!



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- Pond treatment.
- Removal and follow up chemical treatment of large stands of Honeysuckle, Autumn and Russian Olive, Locust, and Multiflora-rose.
- 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
309-981-9716 • Invasiveprm@gmail.com



Ag Day for Kids and so much more!

February has been a busy month for the Ag Coordinators. Ag Day for kids provided ag sessions for Knox County fourth graders. A 4-H group learned about ag connections to football for their Super Bowl meeting. Kindergarten, first and second graders learned about dairy and made a connection to chocolate.

Over 400 fourth grade students from Knox County attended Ag Day for Kids at Carl Sandburg College. Students attended mini sessions on: pork, cattle, dairy, corn, soybeans, pollinators, soil erosion, machine technology, and learned about farm animals. FFA students acted as guides for the classes as they made their way through the sessions.

The Henderson Aggies 4-H group met at the Henderson Firehouse for their monthly meeting. The theme was the Super Bowl and members used Ag Mags to answer trivia type questions that related to football. How many footballs can be made from one cowhide? (20) Or food that might be enjoyed at a game: What is the official snack of Illinois? (popcorn)

Mrs. Green's Ag in the Classroom

lessons this month centered around dairy. Students in kindergarten have all adopted a cow through the St. Louis Dairy Council program. Each month Mrs. Green brings a new picture of Mooooooana, AITC's adopted cow. Students get to see how big the calf has grown and learn something new about dairy cows or dairy farmers. Students learned about the 24/7/365 job of dairy farming and that today a dairy farmer can milk 100 cows in an hour because of milking machines. Students taste tested whole milk and skim milk, and others learned how this important ingredient makes chocolate taste yummy. Some students made cow puppets and others made homemade tootsie rolls. Ingredients that are used to make Tootsie Rolls include corn syrup and milk, two ag products that students can easily identify. Students learned that Tootsie Rolls are made in the Chicago area and were the first penny candy. Everyone enjoyed a sweet treat this month that included the ingredient milk.



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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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MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER OF THE MONTH



The Knox County Farm Bureau would like to recognize COUNTRY Financial Representative Jason Lumberry as the top membership recruiter in February. Jason signed 2 new associate members.

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

PRIMETIMERS NEWS

Twelve PrimeTimers met for their February potluck lunch meeting at the Knox Agri-Center. Al Curry gave a presentation on the solar panel installation at his home. The next meeting is March 24 at the Knox

Agri-Center at 12 pm. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. This meeting is a week later due to the election on March 17. The PrimeTimers invite all members 55+ to attend.

Belle Steck Award

The Knox Agri-Center Condominium Association awarded the late Belle Steck with the 2019 Meritorious Service to Agriculture Award. Belle judged many 4-H general project exhibits in multiple counties including Knox, Mercer, Warren, Henry, Peoria and Warren. Belle was a member of the Knox County Homemakers Extension. Named Knox County 4-H Leader of the Year in 1969,

she was also honored as a state 4-H Alumni in 1977. Before passing away, Belle took great pride in her garden and baking year-round. Belle's husband Darrel and she were Knox County Farm Bureau members since 1953. Belle's granddaughter Darla Donovan and daughter-in-law Sharon Steck accepted the award at the 2020 KCFB Annual Meeting.

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.

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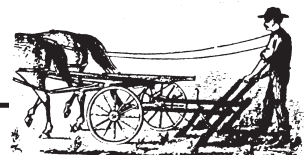
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Looking Back



Taken from the March 1990 Bulletin

39 new members joined the organization this month.

Taken from the March 2000 Bulletin

Cargill Dow Polymers will build a wet-milling plant in Blair, Nebraska. This could open the door to a 500-million bushel market per year. The plant will be on-line by late 2001. It will use 40,000 bushel of corn per day. It will turn corn into polymers, which manufacturers will further process into fabrics, plastics for cups, food containers, packaging and carpets.

Taken from the March 2010 Bulletin

The KCFB Young Farmers held their 2nd Annual Leadership Boot Camp. It was open to high school FFA and 4-H students in Knox County.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Creamy Corn and Seafood Chowder

Ingredients

- 1 large onion, peeled and chopped
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 pounds red skin potatoes, peeled or unpeeled, diced
- 1 1/2 cups corn, fresh or frozen kernels
- 2 cups clam juice (may substitute shrimp stock or fish stock)
- 2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 pound bay scallops, or diced sea scallops
- 1 1/2 pounds shrimp, medium-to-large, peeled, deveined, and tails removed
- 1 cup heavy cream (or half-and-half)
- Garnishes: fresh parsley (chives or dill), chopped

Steps to Make It

- In a Dutch oven or large saucepan over medium heat, sauté the onion in the butter.
- Add the minced garlic and cook,

stirring, for 1 minute longer.

Add the salt, pepper, and flour and continue to cook for about 2 minutes, stirring constantly.

Add the diced potato, corn, clam juice, milk, and thyme. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until the mixture just begins to boil.

Lower the heat to low and simmer for about 20 minutes, or until potatoes are tender.

Remove about 2 cups of the potato mixture with a slotted spoon. Puree in a blender or in a bowl with an immersion blender.

Return the mixture to the soup and add the scallops and shrimp to the pan and cook for about 5 to 10 minutes longer, or just until the seafood is cooked.

Add the cream and heat through. Taste and adjust seasoning.

Serve the seafood chowder in bowls with a garnish of parsley, chives, or fresh dill sprigs.

Taken from thespruceeats.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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