

USDA announces \$6 billion in Farmer Assistance

By FarmWeek

USDA will establish at least \$6 billion in new programs to bring financial assistance to farmers who felt the impact of COVID-19 market disruptions. Announced Wednesday, the new initia-

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Crystal Harrison
Bradley Edwards
Betty Haffner
Patricia McWethy-Wolf
Elizabeth Pinzarrone
Dakota Benefiel
David and Natalie Ingle

tive — USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers — will reach a broader set of producers than previous COVID-19 aid programs.

The \$6 billion comes from discretionary funding in the Consolidated Appropriations Act and other coronavirus funding that went unspent by the previous administration.

USDA will develop rules for the new programs that will put a greater emphasis on outreach to small and socially disadvantaged producers, specialty crop and organic producers, and timber harvesters, as well as provide support for the food supply chain and producers of renewable fuel.

USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers will utilize existing programs, such as the Local Agricultural Marketing Program, Farming Opportunities

Training and Outreach and Specialty Crop Block Grant Program to enhance educational and market opportunities for agricultural producers.

USDA also announced an increase in CFAP 1 payment rates for cattle. Cattle producers with approved CFAP 1 applications will automatically receive these payments beginning in April.

Eligible producers do not need to submit new applications, since payments are based on previously approved CFAP 1 applications. USDA estimates additional payments of more than \$1.1 billion to more than 410,000 producers.

Additional CFAP 2 assistance of \$20 per acre will be made in April to producers of eligible crops, including alfalfa, corn, hemp, sorghum, soybeans and wheat. Eligible producers do not need to submit a new CFAP 2 application. USDA estimates ad-

ditional payments of more than \$4.5 billion to more than 560,000 producers.

USDA will reopen sign-up for CFAP 2 for at least 60 days beginning April 5. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has committed at least \$2.5 million to improve outreach for CFAP 2.

In addition, \$500 million in new funding will be added to some existing programs by April 30. Those include the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and Local Agricultural Marketing Program, along with \$20 million for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to improve and maintain animal disease prevention and response capacity, and \$28 million for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to provide grants to state departments of agriculture to expand or sustain existing farm stress assistance programs.

Veterinary Student Loans Applications Available

Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) is accepting applications for its Illinois Veterinary Education and Training (IVET) loan program. Loans are available to second-year veterinary students attending any accredited college of veterinary medicine in the U.S. and who are focused on Illinois food animal medicine.

The Illinois Veterinary Education Training (IVET) Program helps offset the high cost of veterinary education. The program loans up to \$40,000 to as many as three veterinary students each year. Loans are made over a period of two to three years. IVET awards recipients a \$1,500 stipend during their fourth year in school to help pay expenses associ-

ated with clinical rotations. Loans are repaid over five years, during which graduates must commit to working in a food animal practice that services Illinois livestock producers.

"Illinois Farm Bureau encourages veterinary students to pursue a career in caring for food animals," said Tasha Bunting, associate director of commodities & livestock practices, IFB. "To succeed, farmers need the services of a food-animal veterinarian to help them care for their beef cattle, swine, sheep and poultry. It's an incredibly rewarding career field that has seen an in-

crease in demand in recent years."

Applications are due May 15, 2021 and can be found online at www.ilfb.org/IVET. The selection committee will interview eligible applicants in spring 2021. Successful applicants will be notified by mail. Loan disbursements begin in August.

IFB established IVET in 2005. Since then, the organization has awarded more than \$510,000 to 26 veterinary students who focus on caring for food animals in Illinois.

For more information about the program, contact Tasha Bunting at 309-557-2993 or tbunting@ilfb.org.



Are YOU a current VET STUDENT?

Apply for Illinois Farm Bureau's IVET loan program today.

- Loan for food animal vet students
- No interest on loan while you're in school
- Up to \$40,000 loan distributed over three years

STUDENT TIMELINE:

- Applications due May 15
- Interviews are conducted in April
- Loan proceeds are dispersed in August

www.ilfb.org/IVET

Apply online today.



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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.



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Thank You
KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU



Phones planted like pliers in farmer pockets

I still remember the spring when an unnamed farmer attempted to grow a crop of cell phones.

While outside the tractor cab in the field, he had dropped then driven over his two-week-old cell phone twice. Once with a planter and soon after with a tillage implement that placed it subsurface like a seed.

The soil rang. He found the phone. The dirty flip phone (this was 2009) could dial the local equipment dealership with a breakdown. However, the shattered screen left him unable to read a text message about the commodity markets.

A new phone soon suspended from a bungee cord on his collar, safe keeping for a device that farmers, like most Americans,

find too important to go without.

Cell phones, and specifically smartphones, have arguably surpassed the importance of pliers to the daily farmer attire. The tool has yet to tightly wire a gate, but it wields the power to access everything from local weather to global agriculture markets at our sometimes-soiled fingertips.

Grandpa, who farmed with literal horsepower in childhood, never imagined a handheld device could text and email business partners and display instant radar images, yet function as a flashlight. Remotely, we can control the grain dryer and monitor the solar array's energy production.

Apps on the device deliver field-by-field rainfall totals, timely agriculture podcasts and virtual farm teleconferences. Smartphones grant rural families the conveniences any modern American families employ, such as online shopping, restaurant pickup orders, voice-guided navigation and live virtual access to anything allowed.

From the bleachers at a home basket-

ball game, my daughter and I watched a calf's birth via live video footage from barn cameras at the home farm. We found true delight in witnessing the little heifer stand within 30 minutes and gallop about the straw in another 10.

The smartphone provides our camera, calendar and calculator. It replaced the dinner bell for summoning family members from the barnyard and, quite precisely, can track their location out in the fields. It provides a hotspot for homework, a device to fill downtime and an app to identify constellations on a starry summer night.

The future likely will bring more exciting conveniences and practical uses, but for now, a key function on our farm remains conversation, both business and social. The same phone that calls the local grain elevator to market corn also orders the Sunday night pizza.

It texts a question about production records and reaches relatives seldom seen when planting season peaks, assuming no one plants the device and needs a replacement.

Legislative Update

FY22 Ag Department Budget Remains at '21 Levels

By Rep. Norine Hammond

Greeting to members of the Knox County Farm Bureau and families.

This past year has certainly had it challenges and tragedies on too many of our families and friends. We never could have predicted something like this pandemic and how it has changed our lives. Certainly, we, the members of the General Assembly, have seen significant changes to the way Session has been conducted.

Last year's session was shortened due to the pandemic and the inability to meet in-person. We did hold some House session days in late May at the Bank of Springfield Center allowing for distancing with only members, limited staff, and security in attendance. It was very costly and budgeting constraints only allowed for limited days. This option was also put in motion for the lame duck session in early January.

On January 13, 2021, the 102nd General Assembly was sworn in at the Bank of Springfield Center. It was a much different Inauguration than in years past. Most striking, there were no family allowed in the BOS. Except for one day, last week, when the House did return to the House Chamber we have not been meeting in-person. All our Committee hearing have been virtual on Zoom.

I'll share a few highlights from the Governor's budget address and some key legislation before the General Assembly. Some good news, the FY22 Governors pro-



posed budget allowed the Department of Agriculture to maintain its operational and regulatory functions, including its meat and poultry inspections, which protect the citizenry from the threat of mass foodborne illness. The Department has proposed a small increase in federal funds to do so. In addition, the proposed budget allows full funding for county fairs and funding agriculture education at the same amount as the FY21 budget; \$5 million.

Biodiesel

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) has rebranded its biodiesel program, rolling out new logos for both ISA Biodiesel and

the B20 Club. The brand redesign reflects new audiences ISA is now targeting in its biodiesel efforts including farmers, communities, urban audiences and lawmakers.

The biodiesel campaign will continue to promote the B20 Club brand and effort supported by the ISA checkoff program in collaboration with the American Lung Association. The B20 Club recognizes Illinois-based organizations with strong commitments to run fleets on biodiesel blends of 20% or greater.

The Governor cut the biodiesel tax credit from the FY22 budget. HB 229, introduced by Representative Charlie Meier (R-Okawville), would create a mandated tax break for biodiesel.

COVID-19 and Mass Animal Mortality

In response to the potential disaster that livestock farmers encountered when meat-processing plants were functioning at low capacity under DPH guidelines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A large number of livestock, specifically hogs, were to be euthanized because meat producers could not accept livestock.

HB 3416 is introduced in the 102 General Assembly by Representative Sonja Harper (D-Chicago) to allow the Director of Agriculture to declare a mass animal mortality event. The Director will notify IEMA 24 hours following the declaration.

The planting season is just around the corner. I wish you a prosperous and safe season and a Blessed Easter.

Getting To Know Your Farm Bureau Policy

26. GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

We support:

1. Science-based research and economic analysis, not cultural consensus, to conclusively determine the causes and impacts of global climate change.
2. Scientific research to document the continuous improvement and beneficial impact of agricultural efforts to date with regard to increasing climate resiliency, improving water quality and soil health, sequestering carbon in the soil, and preventing soil erosion.
3. A campaign to communicate to the general public and policy makers about the continuous improvement and beneficial

impact of agricultural efforts to date with regard to increasing climate resiliency, improving water quality and soil health, sequestering carbon in the soil, and prevent soil erosion.

4. Expanding and improving state and federal conservation programs that allow farmers to voluntarily adopt conservation practices that increase climate resiliency, improve water quality and soil health, sequester more carbon in the soil, and prevent soil erosion.

5. Market-based solutions that establish economic incentives for farmers to voluntarily adopt conservation practices that increase climate resilience, improve water quality and soil health, sequester more car-

- bon in the soil, and prevent soil erosion.
6. Increased funding for research of farming practices that mitigate climate change while maintaining farm profitability, as well as technical assistance and educational efforts that ensure the research outcomes are transferred effectively to farmers.
 7. Farmers to voluntarily improve on-farm energy efficiency.
 8. Improvements to the current electric grid.
 9. Use of a broad spectrum of power sources like renewables, biofuels and nuclear power to help facilitate the market-derived cost of energy.
 10. Federal level climate change policy that reflects regional variations.

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Liability Insurance Important For Business

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:

Do you own the building?

If not, what liabilities do you have as a renter?

Do you visit clients on their property, or do they come to you?

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 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.

March Board Highlights

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Knox County Farm Bureau was held virtually and with some directors in attendance on March 18, 2021.

- Education & Outreach**
- A survey will be conducted by KCFB on members and county residents on their access to broadband.
- Farm Business – Todd West**
- A new plat book will be created for 2022. Available in December 2021.
- Government and Policy**
- A survey will be conducted by KCFB on members and county residents on their access to broadband. Members are encouraged to talk to legislators about how the sales tax exemption affects them personally on their farm.
- Member Relations**
- Voting member dues are due February 28, 2021.
- Foundation – Hailey Weyhrich**
- The KCFB Foundation awarded five scholarships for 2021. Isabelle Kuelper and Emma Hawkinson were awarded the O'Connor Family Scholarship. Natalie Nelson was awarded the Kreig Family Scholarship. Christina Seiboldt was awarded
- KCFB Board Attendance 2021**

	March
Beard, Jennifer	P
Bewley, Beau	P
Boydston, Terry	P
Courson, Dustin	P
DeSutter, Drew	P
Emken, Kurt	A
Engel, Lori	P
Goedeke, Phil	P
Grady, Jeff	P
King, Becky	A
Link, Cory	P
Link, Nathan	P
Nelson, Brian	P
O'Connor, Tom	P
Shea, Damon	P
Stevens, Monica	P
Swanson, Brett	P
West, Todd	P

AGENT SPOTLIGHT



Name: Jeremy Kleine
Years with COUNTRY: 15 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.
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Hailey's Manager Update



We have made it to April 2021! Unfortunately, we are still not back to normal, but we are getting closer. Talk of having the summer fairs are increasing along with planning for our Summer Ag Institute and other programs.

I patiently wait each day for us to have more than 50 people in person, or, to have more restrictions placed on us with cases rising some. It is hard to be an event planner right now! The best way to stay up to date with what we have going on is through The Bulletin, our website, our Facebook page and our email. Please make sure your contact information is all up to date with the office!

On a different note, I want to personally thank all the members that attended the Spring Clean Up Day on March 26.

The weather was not great, but that made for a good temperature to work in. The mud also made it easier to pull weeds! We had two years worth of clean up and the building shows the hard work everyone put in! All the work done creates the perfect canvas for new landscaping to be put in for May so be sure to keep an eye out for that!



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Health on the Farm

By the Knox County Health Department

Protect yourself from ticks

Before gardening, hiking, or just playing outdoors, make tick bite prevention part of your plans. Tick exposure can occur year-round, but ticks are most active during warmer months (April-September).

Ticks are commonly found on the tips of grasses and shrubs. Ticks crawl, they cannot fly or jump. The tick will wait in the grass or shrub for a person or animal to walk by and then quickly climb aboard. Some ticks will attach quickly, and others will wander, looking for places like the ear, or other areas where the skin is thinner.

The best way to protect against Lyme disease and other tickborne illnesses is to avoid tick bites. This includes avoiding tick-infested areas. However, if you live in or visit wooded areas or areas with tall grass and weeds, follow these precautions against Lyme disease and other tickborne diseases like Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis and tularemia:

- Wear light-colored, protective clothing—long-sleeved shirts, long trousers, boots or sturdy shoes, and a head covering. Tuck

trouser cuffs in socks. Tape the area where pants and socks meet so ticks cannot crawl under clothing.

- Apply insect repellent containing 10 percent to 30 percent DEET primarily to clothes. Apply sparingly to exposed skin (do not spray directly to the face; spray the insect repellent onto hands and then apply to face. Avoid sensitive areas like the eyes, mouth and nasal membranes). Be sure to wash treated skin after coming indoors. Use repellents containing permethrin to treat clothes (especially pants, socks, and shoes)—but not skin. Always follow label directions; do not misuse or overuse insect repellents. Always supervise children in the use of insect repellents.

- Walk in the center of trails so weeds do not brush against you.

- Check your, children and other family members every two to three hours for ticks. Most ticks seldom attach quickly and rarely transmit a tickborne disease until they have been attached for four or more hours. If your pets spend time outdoors, regularly check

them for ticks, too.

- Remove any tick promptly. Do not burn the tick with a match or cover it with petroleum jelly. Do not use bare hands. The best way to remove a tick is to grasp it with tweezers as close to the skin as possible and gently, but firmly, pull it straight out. Do not twist or jerk the tick. If tweezers are not available, grasp the tick with a piece of tissue or cloth or whatever can be used as a barrier between your fingers and the tick. If the mouthparts do break off, do not become alarmed; once the mouthparts are removed from the rest of the tick, the tick can no longer transmit the Lyme disease bacteria. If you want to have an intact tick identified, put it in a small

vial of rubbing alcohol and contact your local health department for assistance.

- Wash the bite area and your hands thoroughly with soap and water and apply an antiseptic to the bite site.
- Make sure the property around your home is unattractive to ticks. Keep your grass mowed and keep weeds cut.

For more information on ticks, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/>. For information about Lyme disease click here Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/> or Illinois Department of Public Health at <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/lyme-disease>



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Farm Stress: A Different Kind of Distracted Driving

By Adrienne DeSutter

Maybe you were taking a super important phone call, or you were trying to calm the backseat toddler chaos. Maybe it was while reaching for the cash that fell down the side of your seat, or wiping the ketchup that spilled down your shirt as you chomped on a burger. Maybe you were... *gasp*...texting. We've all done it. We've all been distracted drivers.

But when it involves farm equipment, distracted driving takes on a whole new level of danger. If you've been behind the wheel of a tractor, combine, or semi, you know that visibility is slim and reaction time is limited. Farmers take extra caution to avoid hazardous situations to keep-themselves and other drivers safe (and, if we're being honest, we don't have much tolerance for drivers who don't exercise the same caution). After all, we've got families to return home to, right?

Here's the kicker: there's a secret distraction, and it impacts farmers even more than the general population. It's a six-letter word that interferes with our ability to focus, our decision-making, our impulse control, and more. It's something we face nearly every day, and if not managed properly, can become a danger to us both in and out of the cab. So what is this secret distraction? It's stress.

You know all about farm stress. It's the

"first day of planting jitters." It's the "paperwork is due but the books aren't done yet." It's "how are we going to turn a profit this year?" "We can't take a break or the cows won't get fed." "What will I do if I can't farm?" "My neighbor just went bankrupt." "Great, another equipment malfunction." "I need to be at my kid's game but can't leave the farm." "The weather is ruining another plan." "What a waste of time and money having to replant." "What if this storm wipes out everything?" "I have no time for my spouse." "Grandson wants to change things up, but why fix what isn't broken?" "When am I supposed to find time to learn this new technology?" We know it. We live it.



But what you may not know is just how distracting stress can be. When our brain is stressed, it basically has to work overtime figuring out how we're going to survive the situation. Since we're on overload, other parts of the brain essentially shut down. This is why we struggle with things like memory, problem-solving, and emotional regulation when we're going through challenging times. Unfortunately, the long-term

stressors that farmers face is even harder on the brain.

And it doesn't stop there. Stress also causes inflammation, and has been associated with various heart and brain diseases. It can lead to fatigue, work accidents, and other aches and pains that can hinder farmers' ability to effectively do their job. From a business perspective, it can also be costly, as stress leads to high absenteeism and turnover rates. Individual medical and

insurance expenses can skyrocket, as well.

Next time you decide your stress isn't worth worrying about, consider just how dangerously distracting it can be. And if you catch yourself shaking your head at drivers around you for their recklessness, you might want to take a step back and make sure you're not just as guilty.

Remember, our families need us home safely, and managing our stress is one more way we can make that happen.



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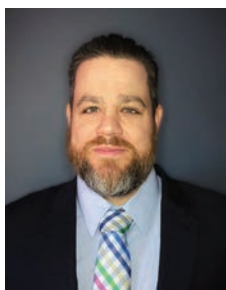
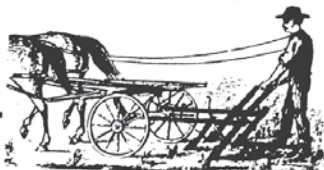
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