

Knox County Farm Bureau®

Bulletin

Promote 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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Knox County Youth Livestock Expo

THANK YOU to these donors and sponsors that made the Knox County Youth Livestock Expo possible!

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More Expo photos on page 6.

KCFB Foundation Golf Outing

by Olivia Bates

Friday, July 17th was our 4th Annual Knox County Farm Bureau Foundation Golf Outing. This year we had 8 teams compete as well as 5 different sponsors for this event. Teams started at 8 a.m. playing all 18 holes with three golf games.

Teams competed for the best overall score, but also closest to the pin, longest drive, and longest putt. After all teams were finished they enjoyed lunch at The Watering Hole provided by the KCFB Foundation. The team of Matt Hennenfent, David Hennenfent, Blake Hennenfent, and Dane Hennenfent were our winners for the day and our second-place team being Joe Thompson, CL Cummings, Mark Taber, and Brad Clark from Tompkins State Bank.

We would like to thank West Central FS, Tompkins State Bank, Ladner and Jain Orthodontics, Whitney and Potts, Ltd, and



Compton Accounting for their donations to this outing. Money raised from this event will go towards our Ag in the Classroom program, fund scholarships for local students in need, and facilitate our summer internship program.

We would again like to thank everyone involved in this event, and we hope to have even more participation next year.



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.



August 2020 No. 8

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Thank You
KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU



Corn engrained in lifestyle

We named our puppy Maizey, playing on the corn phrase “maize.” The name seemed fitting for a yellow-colored Labrador and a tribute to the crop at the root of our livelihoods. We also thought the name was unique until we learned the farmer two miles south calls his dog the same.

Farmers throughout Illinois share a connection to corn. We grow it, talk about it, and drive around just to look at it. We monitor its stages of development, the rain it receives, and its health in our own fields, as well as around the county, state, and Midwest. We invest in the technology

to plant it at consistent depths and precise distances to resemble picket fences at emergence.

Tech-driven applications of fertilizer and herbicides help achieve the overall industry goal of more grain with less environmental impact. By mid-summer, farmers marvel at tassels and worry when forecasted storms with high winds could topple the crop under their care before harvesting it.

Corn helps pay the bills for Illinois’ more than 72,000 farms, most of which grow field corn, a grain used for food, feed, and fuel. The Illinois Corn Growers Association reports that the crop adds \$17.5 billion annually to the state’s economy. Illinois’ top crop also impacts every American who buys fuel, eats food, or uses everyday items that contain corn, like batteries, toothpaste, and diapers.

Our household enjoys all types of corn, which includes eating popcorn and sweet corn, planted in time to harvest for my

husband’s August birthday. Even beyond the growing season, corn maintains a presence in our home. At Christmas, I decorate a farm-themed tree with a string of corn lights. A space atop our kitchen cabinets holds ears of corn for display, and the custom-made handrails that flank our porch steps feature steel silhouettes of young corn plants. The blacksmith even added ears of corn at the mounting plates.

Our daughter last fall made some extra income weighing trucks of corn during harvest at the family grain storage facility. For a computer science class last year, our son illustrated a combine harvesting corn for his animated transition slides. We’re a little crazy about corn, and Maizey provides some evidence.

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

Legislative Update: ‘We can’t leave our family farmers behind’

By Congresswoman Cheri Bustos

Every single day. That’s how often the phone of a young estate attorney would ring with a concerned family farmer on the other end in search of answers.

One after another, they would ask: Can I pass my farm on to the next generation? Would it be wise of me to do so? Do I want this for my children?

As someone who comes from a long line of family farmers, served rural communities for a decade before running for office and served on the House Agriculture Committee since first coming to Congress, this broke my heart.

I heard this story when I met with Illinois Farm Bureau leaders in my Washington, D.C. office not long after we worked together to shape the critical United States Mexico Canada Agreement.

It was also just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

As we responded to these new public health and economic crises, I couldn’t help but wonder how frequently that attorney’s phone must ring now. Afterall, agriculture is the largest economic driver in Illinois.

In the following months, I’ve worked to deliver the relief our farmers need because it’s crucial Washington has their backs.

First, I helped pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was the most significant relief package in American history to assist our agriculture economy. This bill provided:

- Farmers access to small



- business relief and flexible credit programs in the Small Business Administration’s Paycheck Protection Program.
- \$14 billion to replenish the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), which is the flexible farm credit entity that supplied Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payments in recent years.
- \$9.5 billion for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for assistance to livestock, dairy, specialty crops and local farmers markets
- Then, with prices at record lows and the Trump Administration excluding biofuel producers from receiving assistance, I led my colleagues in calling on the USDA to provide relief to

our producers in the industry who are in desperate need of assistance amid the pandemic.

Finally, I helped pass the Heroes Act out of the House and have repeatedly called on my colleagues in the Senate to do the same. Because this critical legislation would provide:

- \$16.5 billion for direct payments to producers.
- Emergency assistance to support livestock producers who are forced to euthanize market-ready livestock due to processing plant disruptions and provide reimbursement for 85 percent of the losses.
- Support for renewable fuels – CCC payments for fuel produced between January 1, 2020, and May 1, 2020 at a base rate of \$0.45 per gallon.
- \$20 million for the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network program.
- \$4 billion for the Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund.

From trade uncertainty to unpredictable weather, our farmers have faced tough times before. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has created new challenges, I know we can get through this together.

The Congressional District I serve is home to more than 9,000 family farms. They are some of the most resilient, hardworking people I have ever met – we can’t leave them behind.

In Congress, I’ll always fight for them to ensure their businesses and livelihoods are strong for generations to come.

Getting To Know Your Farm Bureau Policy

121. STATE AND LOCAL FINANCE (Shortened Version)

We will analyze any proposed changes in state tax rates as to the effect any change would have on the economy and competitiveness of the State of Illinois in relation to the state tax rates imposed by neighboring states and take the appropriate action on such proposed changes.

We support:

1. An overall tax structure for state

and local governments in Illinois that includes a moderate flat rate state income tax, a moderate local real property tax, sales tax, motor fuel tax, cigarette tax, liquor tax, and other special taxes.

We oppose:

1. Imposing additional taxes or increases in tax rates upon property unless approved by a referendum of local voters at a primary or general election. We oppose the use of a backdoor referendum.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS


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

Randall & Pamela Allen
Steve Cordle
Kyle Happ
Patrick & Jodi Hise
Demi & Dylan Johnson

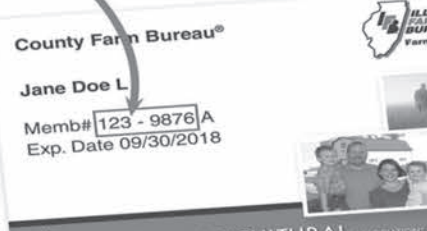
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6 ways to protect your home when you travel

You have enough to worry about before traveling. You're busy wrapping up things at work, washing oodles of laundry, and packing suitcases. So, adding six more tasks to your to-do list may seem overwhelming.

But don't fret! To help you get started, we outlined six simple tips for prepping your home before you hit the road! Check them out:

1. Stash your stuff in a safe

Before you leave, place your valuables in a locked safe or safe deposit box. If those aren't options for you, make sure valuables aren't in plain sight or in an obvious place.

2. Hire a sitter

If you have a pet, you can either hire a pet-sitter or drop Fido off at the local doggie daycare. Expect to pay around \$11 per hour* for their services.

For pet-free homes, consider hiring a house sitter to help water plants and check in on your home every couple of days. Websites like Rover and TrustedHousesitters can help you find people for both

3. Stop your mail

A tell-tale sign no one's home, is when a mailbox is overflowing, and packages are stacked on the porch. Before you leave town, swing by your local post office or fill out their online form to put a hold on your mail.

4. Smart home technology

Burglars aren't the only thing to worry about while you're away. Installing safe home technology can help you keep an eye on your home from afar. Many companies offer a variety of smart home technology like smoke and carbon alarms, garage sensors, and water de-

tection – so if water is detected in your basement or a smoke alarm is going off, your smart phone is alerted immediately. Simply search online for "smart home technology" for some options.

5. Keep your landscaping tidy

If you're going on an extended trip, hire a landscaping company to cut your grass or shovel your driveway. Anything you can do to keep your property looking fresh can deter thieves from breaking in.

6. Be careful on social media

This is nothing new, but something that's still happening. If you post you're on vacation, online predators know your house is empty and waiting for them. Try not to post your vacay pics until you're back.

July Board Highlights

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Knox County Farm Bureau was held on July 16, 2020 in person with 1 director joining virtually.

Education & Outreach – Tara Bohnert Yoder: Nothing to report at this time.

Farm Business – Todd West: Nothing to report at this time.

Government and Policy – Jeff Link: Nothing to report at this time.

Member Relations – Matt Hulsizer: Grain bin safety

stickers are available in the office.

Foundation – Hailey Weyhrich: The 4th Annual Golf Outing was held on July 17 at Oak Run Golf Course. 8 teams participated and the 1st place team was the Hennenfent team of David Hennenfent, Matt Hennenfent, Blake Hennenfent, and Dane Hennenfent. The 2nd place team was the Tompkins State Bank team.

PrimeTimers – Hailey Weyhrich: Nothing to report currently.

Young Farmers – Jeff Grady: The Cover Crop Project is ongoing. The Committee met on July 23.

KAC – Hailey Weyhrich: Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Work is still ongoing for the Nutrient Stewardship Grant Watershed Planning project.


NEW BUSINESS

The Knox County Farm Bureau will sponsor the Throwdown Show and will sponsor and host the Knox County Youth Livestock Expo.

AGENT SPOTLIGHT



Name: John Ryner
Years with COUNTRY: 21 years
Office Address: 180 S Soangetaha Rd, Ste 103, Galesburg, IL 61401
Galesburg Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30 (Evenings and Saturday by appointment)
407 N Monroe St, Ste 8, Abingdon, IL 61410
Abingdon Hours: Monday 12:00-4:30 pm; Thursday 8:00 am-12:30 pm (or by appointment)
Phone: Galesburg Office: 309-342-1625, Cell Phone: 309-335-7893
eMail Address: john.ryner@countryfinancial.com
Family: Wife, Cathy. Sons, Jordan, Joshua, Rodel, Jonas, Jannus.
Education: 1987 Bachelor of Science in Agri-Business from Truman State University, Kirksville, MO
Designations: Investment Solutions Representative
Awards: Four-time All American and Ten-time All Star recipient; Honor Roll recipient
Mission Statement: While adhering to the Golden Rule, I promise to give the most appropriate insurance recommendations suitable to my clients' needs and provide the best personal service every client deserves.



Got one headed back to school?

Whether they're entering first grade, a freshman in high school or headed off to college, let's get together so I can help make sure your insurance coverage meets your needs.

JOHN RYNER

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JASON LUMBERRY

309-342-1647

JOE YOUNGMAN

AGENCY MANAGER

309-686-7050

PATRICK YOUNG

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Ag in the Classroom

Farmer in the Field

It is all but certain that the return to school this fall will not mean the return of Mrs. Green, Knox County Ag Coordinator, to the classrooms. In order to bring agriculture to Knox County students, plans have already begun to film local farmers answering questions about what is happening on their farm, or in their field.

Mrs. Green is coordinating the virtual type field trips with programming from Illinois Ag in the Classroom and will be available on the Knox County Ag in the Classroom Facebook page, as well as on the Knox County Farm Bureau (knoxcfb.org) page.

Back to school trips will begin with a welcome to the farm, with pollinators as a secondary theme. These trips will be followed by apples and soil in September, and pumpkins and farm machinery in October. The hope is to have a short video to share each week

for Farmer in the Field Friday. Please contact Roxanne Green at: rgreen@knoxcfb.org with ideas and suggestions.

The first Farmer in the Field Friday will be August 21. Our friend Ms. Aggie will be sharing her farm and farming experience when we visit her sunflowers.

With the help of Illinois Ag in the Classroom, STEM lessons will also be available. This will include some family activities as well. Mrs. Green will be available to read agriculture based books to classes in a closed format, or by providing AgBags of materials. Teachers will be receiving emails and newsletters with details. Mrs. Green is available to help support teachers and students across Knox County. Anyone wishing to contact Mrs. Green directly can do so by calling the Knox county Farm Bureau at 309-342-2036 or email her at rgreen@knoxcfb.org.

Hailey's Manager Update

While most of the summer has been slow, I still managed to have a very busy week in July. Yes- you read that right. Just one week in July, I managed to pack in everything I could.

The week started on Wednesday, July 15 with Western Grain Marketing hosting their summer Marketing Club Meeting. Thursday, the July Board of Directors Meeting was held. On Friday, the Foundation hosted their 4th Annual Golf Outing at the Oak Run Golf Course.

Then, on Saturday and Sunday, we hosted the first ever Knox County Youth Livestock Expo (KCYLE) and what fun that was! The KCYLE could not have happened without the amazing help from the members who approached Farm Bureau with this idea. We were thankful to work with our COUNTRY Financial Insurance Agent to make sure we had coverage for the

event as well as the Illinois Farm Bureau Office of General Counsel to help us understand all the guidelines and safety measures we needed to take into consideration. So much work went into the events and the only negative of the week was the weather! HOT for Saturday and storms for the Horse Show Sunday that caused some mishaps of equipment.

Overall, I am so proud to be apart of these events and could not have made it through the week without Olivia Bates, our summer intern, and Roxanne Green, our AITC Coordinator. I am looking forward to seeing what August brings us!



Olivia Bates: 2020 KCFB Intern

Hello Knox County! My name is Olivia Bates and I am the KCFB Foundation Summer Intern for 2020!

My parents are Bane and Angela Bates. I am from Knoxville, attended Knoxville High School, and was a 10-year member of the DeLong Livestock 4H Club. I currently attend Augustana College and am majoring in Elementary Education.

With these unprecedented times we are facing due to COVID-19, I am excited to be in the office this summer helping plan and attend events.

Over the past couple of months, I have attended board meetings, marketing club, and the virtual CFB and IFB Intern Seminar, which is normally held in Bloomington, IL. During the seminar, I was able to network with other county interns and learn how the Illinois Farm Bureau can impact its members throughout various levels of agriculture.

The office has been very busy the past month with the 4th Annual Foundation Golf Outing on July 17th, the Knox County Youth Livestock Expo July 18th, and the Horse Show

July 19th. Since the 4H show was virtual this year and the infamous Ag Olympics weren't able to happen this year, I am working to bring you a virtual Ag Olympics how-to this year.

Attending meetings and planning these events has shown me how much of an impact KCFB has on its members and people in this county, as well as the amount of support KCFB receives from members, communities, and businesses.

I have truly enjoyed my time working with Hailey and Roxanne in the office this summer and learning all about Knox County Farm Bureau! I hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy during this time.

Olivia Bates
KCFB Foundation Summer Intern 2020



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Health on the Farm

By the Knox County Health Department

Knox County LIHEAP
Program Kicked Off
July 27, 2020

The Knox County Health Department announces that the Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will begin taking qualified Knox County residents applications starting on July 27, 2020 this year. There will be NO PRIORITY GROUPS this program year.

ALL qualified households in Knox County may apply for LIHEAP assistance by calling in to schedule an appointment at Knox County Health Department (1361 W. Fremont St., Galesburg, Illinois), between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, or by calling (309) 344-2224.

The Energy Assistance Program assists with gas and electric bill to income eligible households. A LIHEAP single-person household can qualify with a gross (before taxes) monthly income of up to \$2,127; a two-person household up to \$2,873; a family of three can earn up to \$3,620; and a family of four can earn up to \$4,367. Benefits are paid directly to energy vendors on behalf of eligible households. The exception is households whose heating costs are included in their rent.

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

Starting September 1, 2020, the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) new applications will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis each month until available funding is available per county, per utility and priority enrollment period is met. PIPP applications are taken from September 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021, or until funding is exhausted.

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.

For additional information about the program, please call the Health Department at 309-344-2224, go to helpillinoisfamilies.com or call the LIHEAP Hotline at 1-877-411-9276.

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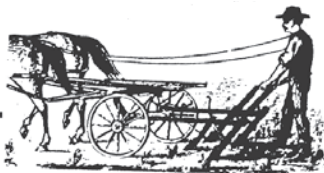
REPORT...
areas where water sits for more than a week

Youth Livestock Expo

Photos provided by Kelli Hand
and Jennifer Beard



Looking Back



Last month in our Looking Back feature, we encouraged past interns to complete a Past Intern Check-In. Thank you to those of you that have filled this out! We are missing responses from the following: Blake Hennenfent, Carrie Hawkinson, Mike Fredrickson, Pam Maher, Ryann Kesler, Cassie Schleich, Kristin DeSutter, Logan Bowman, Kasi Terpening, Karrisa Johnson, Bailey Austin, Rylie Kalb, and Sean Welch. Please help us find them to complete the check-in at <http://www.knoxcfb.org/summer-internship!>

PrimeTimers News

The committee did not meet in July and will not meet in August.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER OF THE MONTH

Correction to last month: Jason Lumberry was the COUNTRY Financial Membership Recruited of the month for June, not February, signing 4 new associate members.

The Knox County Farm Bureau would like to recognize COUNTRY Financial Representatives John Ryner, Mike White, Jeremy Kleine, and Patrick Young as the top membership recruiters for July. All four agents signed 1 new associate member.

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

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



Cooler Corn

Looking for a quick and easy way to cook your freshly picked sweet corn? Check out the recipe below!

Ingredients:
Shucked Corn
Water
Butter
Salt

Cook Time: 30 minutes

1. Fill a cleaned cooler with shucked ears of corn.
2. Pour boiling water over the corn making sure the ears are covered completely.
3. Close the lid of the cooler and let the cooler sit for 30 minutes.
4. After 30 minutes, remove the corn with tongs and serve with butter and salt.

~ 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 email us at assistant@knoxcfb.org by the second to last Friday of each month to place your ad.

- FOR SALE:** Sturdy Storm Windows, 54x28. \$10 each. Call 309-337-0564.

FOR SALE: Wood Windows, 28x28. \$7 each. Call 309-337-0564.

FOR SALE: 4 sheets of plexiglass, 4'x8', \$75 each. Call 309.344.2358
- FOR SALE:** 2 folding pet cages; 1- 24x42 and 1- 24x36, \$15 each. Call 309.344.2358

FOR SALE: Walnut, 440 Board Feet, 3/4" thick, \$2.50/board foot. Call 309.344.3159

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

Report Unsolicited Seeds From Foreign Countries

A Statement from the Illinois Department of Agriculture regarding the mailing of unsolicited seeds:

"We are currently working with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to address reports of unsolicited shipments of seeds from foreign countries. Anyone who receives unordered seeds in the mail should contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture by emailing the following information to agr.seeds@Illinois.gov: First and Last Name, Phone Number and the number of packages received.

Do not open the package, plant the seeds, or throw them out. Please keep all seeds unopened and with their original packaging and labels, including mailing labels, until further instruction is provided."

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