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December 2021

IAA Foundation Offers Scholarships to Support Agriculture, IFB Families

Agriculture students and Illinois Farm Bureau[®] (IFB) members, spouses and children Willits Memorial Scholarship. Additionally, are eligible to apply for 82 college scholarships offered by the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm. The scholarships, ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500, will be awarded in total of \$159,500 for the 2022-23 school year.

"We are pleased to recognize students through our growing scholarship program," said Jennifer Smith, Development Manager, IAA Foundation. "It is a privilege to support the next generation of leaders and encourage degrees in agriculture related fields."

Students may apply for a variety of scholarships, including three IAA Foundation Top Scholarships, where winners will each receive \$5,000 awards. Another \$7,500 award goes to the Illinois Farm Bureau Legacy of Leadership scholarship winner. In addition to family scholarships often established to honor the memory of a loved one, the IAA Foundation offers scholarships on behalf of organizations such as Prairie Farms Dairy. For 2022, the IAA Foundation is honored to administer the newly created Alvin

Eigenrauch Memorial Scholarship and Steve three new Fellowships have been added to support students pursuing advanced degrees.

All applicants must be current high school seniors, or students already enrolled, at an accredited college or university. Scholarships are awarded based on academic performance, leadership experiences, involvement in activities and community service. Previous winners of an IAA Foundation scholarship are eligible to apply again if the scholarship allows.

A full listing of available scholarships and eligibility guidelines is available on the Foundation website, www.iaafoundation.org. The application opens January 1, 2022 and must be completed online by February 15, 2022.

For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation at

309-557-2232, or e-mail Jennifer Smith at jsmith@ilfb.org.

The mission of the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm, is to fund education, research, and charitable activities that benefit Illinois farm families and agriculture.



Thank you to the following sponsors of our November 16 Steve Johnson Seminar! **Abingdon Banking Center** First Midwest Bank **NORTH-AND Co. Tompkins State Bank** Walt Dagen Construction West Central FS

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2022 PLAT BOOKS NOW **AVAILABLE!**



Prices: \$30 for Members \$35 for Non-Members

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

Doug A. Hendricks Ruth D. Talbert Joseph & Lisa Thomas Nicole Tingley Christine McNeil Nolan R. Ward



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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> POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: KNOX CO. FARM BUREAU 180 S. Soangetaha Rd., Galesburg, IL 61401.

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Memories trim the tree

The first test of our marriage arrived with our first Christmas tree. I wanted the picture-perfect experience: Newlyweds strolling through the local tree farm. Big, falling snowflakes. Lots of laughter while wearing a cute stocking hat with matching mittens. You know, just in case someone would snap our photo for a magazine cover.

In reality, I cannot remember anything about that first tree-hunting experience except the trials of getting the tree to stand upright in the living room.

For years following that first Christmas, my husband told relatives, friends and any newly married man of when he had to cut a board from the garage wall to strengthen the "cheap tree stand" I had purchased. (An important note: His family celebrated with artificial trees.) I reasoned that my family had used the same style of tree stand in my childhood for fresh-cut trees. But telling your new husband how his father-in-law does the job likely ranks a top 10 no-no in the book of happily ever after.

During that post-Christmas sale, I bought a heavy-duty, steel stand on discount. HHhere we are 20 years later, still married, using that stand and visiting local tree farms that give us the enjoyment of a fresh fir in the living room. Illinois claims home to 272 Christmas tree farms growing more than 3,700 acres of trees that deliver holiday cheer, according to 2017 Census of Agriculture, the most current data available. The Illinois Christmas Tree Association reports that 98% of fresh-cut trees grow renewably on farms, as opposed to harvested from the wild.

Our teenage kids love the fresh-cut tradition, and we can relate to those tree farm families in the thick of a harvest season that just ended for us. While growing a different Illinois crop, we share the same connection to the land and aspirations for the next generation. I hope those tree farm owners also find satisfaction in the life-lasting memories they create for families like ours.

Twenty years ago, guests placed gifts under a fresh Christmas tree at our late summer wedding. We called it the "wedding tree," a 12-foot scotch pine with silver ribbon, heart ornaments and glass balls containing childhood photos. The local tree farm gifted us the tree, which married my enjoyment of Christmas trees with the traditional gift table. My groom had suspicions at "I do" what he was getting into.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and cover crops and raise beef cattle and backyard chickens. She loves the Christmas season and listens to holiday music in the tractor radio during harvest.

Legislative Update Administration continues its heavy-handed tactics

By Sen. Jil Tracy

The recently-completed fall veto session in Springfield has confirmed in my mind the significant shift – indeed, a disturbing trend – in the way government is being run at the state level. No longer are the best interests and opinions of Illinoisans a top priority. Rather, Democrat leaders wield their Majority status like a weapon, forcing through a very progressive and controversial agenda with little input from rank-andfile lawmakers, and often despite strong opposition by the people they represent.

The Administration's heavy-handed tactics first became evident in early 2020 and since then, Gov. JB Pritzker has issued nearly 100 Executive Orders affecting nearly all aspects of people's lives. Senate and House Republicans have asked repeatedly for a seat at the table during negotiations on these big issues, but those requests have been ignored. Duly-elected Senators representing hundreds of thousands of constituents must be allowed a voice in decisions affecting Illinoisans.

Take for instance, the budget Democrat leaders jammed through the Senate well after midnight on June 1, which spends billions on new programs while cutting hundreds of millions in jobs-creating incentives. Cutting those incentives at a time when Illinois' pandemic-weary economy needs them the most was not necessary, as a fiscal analysis had revealed an additional \$16 billion in unanticipated tax revenues. We asked, "Where does it end? When is it enough?" Their response was to release more than 3,000 pages of budget documents at 1:00 a.m. on June 1 - an hour past their midnight May 31 deadline - then force a vote with little time for all lawmakers to study the details.



she will resign as of Dec. 15. Confirming a candidate before that date is my top priority. Allowing this position to go unfilled is a major disservice to the people of Illinois who deserve an accountable and transparent government.

This year, Illinois' highly partisan redistricting process has allowed Democrat leaders to draw highly partisan maps that protect and grow their power, despite our efforts to work with the Majority Party, and with little regard for public input. And Gov. Pritzker – who originally pledged to veto any partisan, gerrymandered map – has signed such maps into law. This, in spite of the fact that polls have shown more than 75 percent of Illinoisans support – as do I – an independent process that puts citizens in control of drawing legislative districts instead of politicians.

We were also disappointed during the fall veto session as Majority leaders led an attack on parental rights; worked to remove protections against discrimination in the workplace; and blocked Republican bills that address the statewide surge in violent crime.

Democrat leaders ignored the wishes of more than 50,000 people who submitted witness slips against the Parental Notice of Abortion Act (PNA) and the Healthcare Right of Conscience Act (HCRCA). Both statutes were put in place to protect Illinoisans against government interference and overreach, yet these important laws were dismantled in ways that diminish the parent-child relationship and reduce protections for workers in the workplace.

My office has been receiving letters and e-mails from people across the state who are deeply concerned about the PNA repeal. I share their concerns. Every parent or guardian has the responsibility to provide for the health and safety of their children. Most parents have had to write a note or make a phone call to their child's school to allow basic medications like ibuprofen or aspirin to be taken at school. If we take such care in situations like that, how do we justify doing away with parental notification of abortions? Polls have shown that a majority of parents do not support the repeal of PNA, but they were ignored.

The HCRCA, which has been on the books for decades, prohibits any form of discrimination against individuals who refuse to take part in any healthcare service or procedure that is contrary to their religious beliefs, morals, or convictions. As the effort to amend the HCRCA moved through the committee process, an unprecedented level of public engagement unfolded. More than 54,000 people filed digital witness slips opposing the bill. Never before has there been such widespread community opposition to a legislative initiative, yet Majority leaders chose to ignore the will of the people.

Democrat leaders are also ignoring our efforts to address the root causes of spiking crime rates in communities across Illinois. Several weeks ago, Senate Republicans proposed a comprehensive legislative package of public safety reforms, but those bills have not been allowed a public hearing.

My colleagues and I will continue our work to restore bipartisanship and to strengthen the people's input to Illinois' lawmaking process. We don't have to agree on everything, but we do need to work together to meet the challenges facing our state, as well as embrace the many opportunities that are out there.

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

Any spending plan will have supporters and opponents, but its success requires good-faith negotiations. All lawmakers should be allowed the opportunity to study the details and ask the tough questions. Senate Republicans have tried to work with Democrat leaders to pass a balanced budget with the business and government reforms needed to boost Illinois' economy and jobs; however, our attempts have been rebuffed.

As Chairwoman of the Legislative Ethics Commission, I called a meeting on Oct. 28 to select a new Legislative Inspector General (LIG), but a vote was stalled by several Democrat members. Current LIG Carol Pope has indicated

Getting to Know Farm Bureau Policy

The IAA Annual Meeting is December 3-7, 2021. Stay tuned for new policy in January!

2. ACTIVATION AND STATUS OF RESOLUTIONS

Policies of the Illinois Agricultural Association are subject to review at any official meeting of the voting delegates. Resolutions adopted at this annual meeting state the current position of the Illinois Agricultural Association.

The voting delegates authorize the renumbering, placing, and arranging of the resolutions adopted at this annual meeting with the appropriate subject matter for publication in the current resolutions booklet.

These area businesses are proud to be a part of our 2021 Discount **Program for members of the Knox County Farm Bureau®**

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COUNTRY

Avoid a Credit Card Hangover

Many Americans are heading towards the holiday shopping season with a "celebrate now, pay later" mindset. It's an approach that can find the joy of the season dampened by big bills in the new year.

A recent COUNTRY Financial Security Index surveyed Americans on financial decisions related to holiday shopping. Nearly half of Americans (46 percent) said they plan to use credit cards to pay for holiday expenses.

While shoppers may have the best intentions to pay off those cards when the bill comes due, the reality is the holidays put additional financial stress on a budget.

As a result, most shoppers are preparing to spend today and pay tomorrow... or in a month or two. Fifty-two percent of those surveyed said they're willing to take on some level of debt for holiday purchases. And 26 percent said they'd borrow over \$500 for their shopping.

Unfortunately, come January, many Americans will face a "credit card hangover."

Following a few simple tips can help people avoid an unpleasant surprise when the bill comes due after the holidays.

- Create a realistic spending plan and stick with it. Remember that the holidays are more than just gifts. Decorations, meals, baking and postage to mail packages all factor in. Plus remember gasoline or airfare to visit friends and families. Keep those costs in mind throughout the year as you save up.
- Only use credit cards for online purchases. If you have to use a credit card, save it for online purchases. Credit cards do have the benefit of some extra fraud protection. Just be careful not to overspend.
- Look for "found money." See if you've got reward points from hotel stays or from your credit or debit card. These can often be cashed in for merchandise or gift cards to help with holiday spending.
- Look ahead to next year and create a holiday spending account to help budget in those November and December purchases. It's never too early to plan ahead.



We would like to join our entire staff in wishing everyone a very Happy Holiday season.

JASON LUMBERRY

309-34

JOHN RYNER 309-342-1607

JOE YOUNGMAN AGENCY MANAGER 309-686-7050

1118-502HC_D-13581-9/22/2020

MICHAEL WHITE 309-342-3177

309-342-317

JEREMY KLEINE

PATRICK YOUNG 309-342-5316

ED JOHNSON 309-342-1646

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Knox County Farm Bureau was held on November 18, 2021.

Education & Outreach – Lori Engel Holiday Cheese Sale is live. Orders due December 3. Pick up December 14.

Farm Business – Becky King

A new plat book will be created for 2022-Available in December 2021. Steve Johnson is scheduled for November 16, 2021 at 7PM at the Agri Center.

Government and Policy – Drew DeSutter

The proposed congressional and state district maps were discussed.

Member Relations – Jeff Grady

The 2022 Quota Program has been set and KCFB needs1890 Associate Members and 842 Voting Members.

Foundation – Hailey Weyhrich The KCFB Foundation will meet on November 23. **PrimeTimers – Hailey Weyhrich** PrimeTimers are scheduled to meet on November 17 at the Agri Center with a ca-

tered meal by Becky Ellison. Young Farmers – Tyler Main Young Farmers will meet on November

17 for a social meeting.

KAC – Hailey Weyhrich The Knox Agri Center will meet on

November 23.

OLD BUSINESS

There is 1 vacancy on the Knox County Farm Bureau Board. Directors are looking to fill the spot in District 3.

The Board discussed their input for the 2022 IFB Board Priorities.

NEW BUSINESS

The KCFB Annual Meeting will be held January 29, 2022 at Cedar Creek Hall in Galesburg.

The 2022 Plat Book is available. The plat book will be \$30 for members and \$35 for non members. Wall Maps are also available.

KCFB Board Attendance 2021

November Board Highlights

| September | October | November | |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| С | Р | Р | (D) Procent |
| С | Р | Р | (P) Present |
| С | Р | Р | (A) Absent |
| | September C C C | SeptemberOctoberCPCPCP | SeptemberOctoberNovemberCPPCPPCPP |

Introducing the





| Courson, Dustin | C | P | A | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|--|
| DeSutter, Drew | С | Р | Р | |
| Emken, Kurt | С | Р | Р | |
| Engel, Lori | С | Р | Р | |
| Goedeke, Phil | С | Р | A | |
| Grady, Jeff | С | Р | A | |
| King, Becky | С | Р | Р | |
| Link, Cory | С | Р | A | |
| Link, Nathan | С | Р | Р | |
| Nelson, Brian | С | Р | Р | |
| O'Connor, Tom | С | Р | Р | |
| Shea, Damon | С | A | A | |
| Stevens, Monica | С | Р | A | |
| Swanson, Brett | С | Р | A | |
| Underwood, Kyle | С | Р | Р | |
| West, Todd | С | Р | Р | |
| | | | | |

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COUNTRY Financial, IFB Keeping Farmers Updated With Series

There is always uncertainty around what spring, summer and fall may bring. COUNTRY Financial[®] and Illinois Farm Bureau remain ready to assist farmers through every season. The organizations are again teaming up for ten regional meetings across Illinois to share updates on improved opportunities for farmers to protect their farms and crops in 2022.

and our goal is always to help our farm clients and Farm Bureau members reach their goals together with options and information from a trusted partner," said Doug Yoder, COUNTRY Financial Crop Agency Manager. "These meetings offer us the opportunity to connect with clients and members prior to the busy planting season, to make sure they have the most up-to-date information about

"Every farm operation is different,

AGENT SPO'



Office Address: 180 S Soangetaha Rd, Ste 103, Galesburg, IL 61401

Phone: 309-342-1647 eMail Address: jason.lumberry@countryfinancial.com Family: Wife - Brianna, Daughter - Collins, Son - Jackson Education: A.A Lincoln College. B.A. Western Illinois University. M.A. Western Illinois University.

Designations: Investment Solutions Representative

Jason Lumberry

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The ten meetings co-hosted by COUNTRY Financial and Illinois Farm Bureau will take place throughout January and February. Eight meetings will be held in-person across the state, and there will be two virtual presentations. All meetings will include:

- Crop Insurance Update, including changes to federal crop insurance and new private products offered by COUNTRY, the #1 crop hail insurer in Illinois. (Doug Yoder, Crop Agency Manager for COUNTRY Financial)
- Crop Claims Update (COUNTRY Financial Crop Claims Representative)
- Market Outlook (Tim Tresslar, Grain Origination Manager for

Growmark)

- Legislative Update (Illinois Farm Bureau)
- Opportunity for Audience Q&A with presenters

The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18 at DeKalb County Farm Bureau, starting at 8:00 AM. Each event is open to any Illinois farmer. Registration opens December 13, 2021 for each event.

A meeting will be held Thursday, January 27 at 5 p.m. at the Knox County Farm Bureau, 180 S. Soangetaha Rd., Suite 101, Galesburg.

To register and reserve a seat for any of the ten events, farmers should call their county farm bureau office. A full directory of Illinois county Farm Bureau offices can be found at https://www.ilfb. org/about-us/directory/. Farm Bureau members can also login at www.myifb. org to register online.

For updates and more information, visit https://on.ilfb.org/winter-agribusiness-seminars



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Health on the Farm By the Knox County Health Department

Don't Let the Flu Stop You This Holiday Season

and celebration, but they can also be a times of fluenza virus vaccine for people ages 65 years stress, over-indulgence, and illness. However, there are ways to ward off these season spoilers to keep your holidays merry and bright. The most important thing you can do to ensure you are ready of every holiday gathering on your calendar: Get the flu shot.

Contrary to popular belief, the flu shot will not make you sick. In fact, it does just the opposite.

The flu vaccine is safe and effective and is recommended for people ages six months and older. Flu vaccination is especially important for people who are younger than 5 years old, over the age of 65, pregnant, or have a chronic health condition. But it is also important for others to get the flu vaccine to protect themselves, avoid spreading the flu to more vulnerable family members and friends.

Once you've checked this off your holiday list, remember to continue to practice good hygiene in the coming weeks. While the flu can be a complete holiday ruiner, nobody wants to be sidelined by a cold, either. The holidays are sure to be filled with shopping in crowded malls, large parties, and community events. Wash your hands as often as you can and always be sure to carry hand sanitizer for an on-the-go fix when soap and water aren't available.

The Health Department once again has Fluzone High-Dose influenza vaccine this

The holidays are a time for family, friends, year. Fluzone High dose is an inactivated inand older to prevent disease caused by influenza virus. The Fluzone High-Dose vaccine contains four times the amount of antigen (the part of the vaccine that prompts the body to make antibody) contained in the regular flu vaccines

> Remember that it is not too late to get a flu shot and everyone is encouraged to contact the Knox County Health Department or their family health care provider. To prevent the flu individuals should continue to consciously practice preventative measures by following the 3C's-

- **Clean** wash your hands
- Cover- cover your cough and sneeze Contain- contain your germs- stay home if you are sick

The Knox County Health Department is offering flu shots by appointment only. The cost for the flu vaccine this year is \$35, \$70 for high-dose and Medicaid, Medicaid Managed Care and Medicare, Medicare Advantage, cash, check and credit card are accepted. Health Department staff will be practicing masking and social distancing during your visit and all patients are being asked to wear face coverings as well.

If you have any questions about seasonal flu or would like to make an appointment, call us at 309-344-2224.

Need Help Paying Your Power Bill?

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The Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to help assist income-eligible households with gas and electric bills, in the form of a one-time payment to the utility companies.

> **Call the Knox County Health Department at** 309-344-2224 to schedule an appointment





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Looking Back

Looking Back - December 1979

Several county Farm Bureau Women's Committee have been cited for outstanding women's activities in 1979.

Dairy Promotion Awards were presented during the annual meeting of Illinois Farm Bureau in Chicago, December 9-12.

The American Dairy Association of Illinois recognized three county women's committees for outstanding dairy promotion programs in 1979. The awards went to Clay,

Knox, and Whiteside counties. The Knox County Farm Bureau Women's Committee promoted dairy products in the past year by selling and promoting over 830 pounds if high quality cheese and by selling pure dairy ice cream cones at the Knox County Fair to over 1,700 recipients. While at the County Fair, the ladies also distributed health and nutritional information on the goodness of dairy products in the diet and passed out mouthwatering dairy recipes.



Pictured at right - Ruth Hastings (Clay) Louisville and Lillian King (Knox) Oneida.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER OF THE MONTH

The Knox County Farm Bureau would like to recognize COUNTRY Financial Representative, John Ryner, as the top membership recruiter in November. He signed two new Associate Members. Call your COUNTRY Representative for all your insurance and financial needs.



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MARCH 1ST MENDOTA CIVIC CENTER, MENDOTA

MARCH 2ND KNOX AGRI CENTER, GALESBURG

QUINCY **MARCH 4TH** POE'S CATERING, SPRINGFIELD

MARCH 3RD

HOLIDAY INN,

MARCH 14TH ASMARK INSTITUTE AGRICENTER, **BLOOMINGTON**





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~ 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 last Friday of each month to place your ad.

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PrimeTimers News

PrimeTimers met on November 17 with a catered lunch and set the Program of Work for 2022. PrimeTimers will meet on January 18 with a potluck meal and speaker. Please call the office to be added to the mailing list if you would like to join. Free to all members 55 and older!

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