

VOL. XCVII **USPS 297-360** December 2020 Merry Christmas! FROM THE KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU THE KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 18, 2020 THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2021. THE OFFICE WILL REOPEN ON JANUARY 4, 2021 AT 8AM.

COUNTRY Financial, IFB to Deliver Farm Planning Information Webinars

Since 1925, COUNTRY Financial has helped protect Illinois farms. In more recent decades, COUNTRY has teamed up with county farm bureaus to deliver planning and protection updates to help Illinois Topics include: farmers better prepare for the upcoming planting season and beyond. Even during a national pandemic, farmers across Illinois and the entire United States are continuing their work to support their families and feed our country.

There is always uncertainty around what spring, summer and fall may bring, but COUNTRY Financial and your local farm bureau remain ready to assist you through every season, even if it may need to look a little different to keep everyone safe.

In mid-December, COUNTRYFinancial.com/AgWebinars will go live and offer a growing menu of presentations and

supportive information for your 2021 planning. There, you will find a library of recorded in-depth seminars that you can watch from the comfort of your own farm.

- Farm Bill Updates
- COUNTRY Financial Private Product Updates
- **COUNTRY Financial Crop Claims**
- **COUNTRY Financial Precision** Planning & Drone Technology Overview
- Agrivisor Market Outlook for 2021

In addition to making recorded resources available to assist you, COUNTRY and Illinois Farm Bureau staff will also host four live webinars throughout January and February to provide you updated information and answer viewer questions in real-time. RFD's Rita Frazer will host these 90-120-minute live meetings, and each session will cover crop/ farm bill updates (Doug Yoder, COUNTRY Financial), legislative updates (Adam Nielsen, Illinois Farm Bureau) and provide a farm legacy planning overview (Joe Buhrmann COUNTRY Financial).

When COUNTRYFinancial.com/AgWebinars goes live in mid-December, you will also find a link to pre-register and attend these live meetings. Choose the meeting date and time that best fits your schedule:

- Tues., Jan. 19 at 8:30 a.m. CST
- Wed., Jan. 27 at 11 a.m. CST
- Tues., Feb. 9 at 4 p.m. CST
- Thurs., Feb. 25 at 12 p.m. CST

While participants may not all be gathered in the same room this year at locations throughout the state, COUNTRY and Illinois Farm Bureau staff look forward to helping you plan for a successful 2021 crop year and beyond.

Knox County Farm Bureau Foundation

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW LIVE! DUE MONDAY, **FEBRUARY 15, 2021**

WWW.KNOXCFB.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS



David Serven, District 8 IAA Board Director Retires

David Serven of St. Augustine in Knox County was elected to the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) board of directors in 2010 to represent District 8, which includes Fulton, Knox, Peoria, Warren and Henderson Counties. Serven was a mem-

ber of the Finance Committee and Grant Committee. He served as a trustee on the IAA Foundation Board and represented IFB on the boards of Prairie Farms Dairy and Illinois Milk Producers Association.

Serven operates a diversified grain and livestock farm, and raises corn, soybeans, hay and beef cattle. He and his family milked cows until 2009.

Serven was a member of the Knox County Farm Bureau Board from 1996 to of service to our organization on a local 2006, was vice president in 2000, and presi- and state level!

dent from 2001 to 2006. He participated in a Farm Bureau market study tour of China in 2001 and Cuba in 2012.

He has represented District 5 on the Knox County Board. Serven is a past director for Tompkins State Bank in Avon and for Riverland FS.

Currently, he serves on the Abingdon-Avon district #276 school board. Serven is a member of both the Illinois Corn Growers and Soybean Associations.

Serven received his bachelor's degree in agriculture production at Illinois State University. He is a graduate of Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) and of the Illinois Ag Leadership Program. He also was the state Young Leader Achievement Award winner in 2002 and received the American Farmer Degree from FFA.

Serven and his wife, Barb, have two sons and a daughter. They are members of the St. Augustine Catholic Church.

Knox County thanks David for his years



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.



December 2020
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and the
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FEDERATION

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

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> Telephone: 309-342-2036 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



Farm influences gifts under the tree When almost 4 years old, our son's Christmas wish list included a "tree cutter" (chain saw), a "bin site" (grain storage facility), and a "wiggle tractor," (his description of a high-horsepower tractor that articulates, or bends, in the middle).

To his delight, he received toy versions of all of them.

Life on the farm influences the gifts found under the family tree, often itself decorated with ornaments shaped as cows, pigs, barns, and corn-consuming wildlife. I remember the Christmas when the men received sets of reversible ratcheting wrenches. They excitedly opened two same-shaped packages: one standard, one metric.

Our farm family often finds the best gifts the most useful ones. Lithium battery-powered tools, air compressors, and rubber boots. Deep-well socket sets, air tools, and a new set of pilot-point drill bits in a rugged case. In sarcastic wonder, my husband once unwrapped an extension ladder, rung by rung.

The women often appreciate practical items that make tasks easier in the garden and kitchen. The kids receive toy tractors, wooden toy barns, farm animal figures, and plastic fencing to keep those little livestock contained. A few years ago, our son unwrapped a rolling tool chest for storing Nerf darts and LEGO items in his room. For her room redesign, our daughter listed wishes for decorations with windmills, chickens, and sunflowers.

A new plat book from the county Farm Bureau office makes a great coffee table gift for every landowner in the family. Single sockets and hand-warmer packets give weight to stockings. And a set of well-fitting work gloves wrapped with a can of whole cashews provides a fail-safe gift idea for most any adult in the family.

By late November every year, I pull out the kids' Christmas picture books, an annual gift from us that they collected through middle school. Several of the books share farm influences with stories set on tree farms and in barns or stables, including the original Christmas story that pairs with the kids' nativity set.

The holidays bring another avenue to express the joy we find in farming. I confess to streaming Christmas music in the grain cart tractor in October to prematurely mix harvest and the holidays, a couple of my favorite things. No doubt, farm life will penetrate the holiday scene again this year. Wrapping paper alone gives away my farm fetish. The patterned paper with chickens, pigs, and cows in Santa hats reveals the gift giver before the tag does.

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

Legislative Update

Still a fraternity of farm families; through peaks and valleys

By Rep. Dan Swanson (R-Alpha) I want to start by congratulating Farm Bureau members from throughout Illinois for their work in the coalition to stop the tax hike amendment on November 3. It took a massive, collaborative effort to accomplish this feat and farmers have much to be proud of in their work to put Illinois on a better fiscal track.

Illinois taxpayers sent a message on November 3. It is past time for the overspending to end. That overspending by Chicago politicians has been unfettered as long as they continue to increase the burden on taxpayers to cover the new spending. In this public rebuke of the tax-and spend-mentality pervasive with Illinois' ruling class, the voters have expressed their sincere desire for a government which lives within its means.

I can only imagine the celebration of this accomplishment that would be occurring at the annual Illinois Agricultural Association meetings traditionally held in Downtown Chicago during the holiday season. Unfortunately, COVID mitigations have led to the cancellation of this year's forums and festivities, but I hope farmers take some solace in this small victory, in an otherwise difficult year.

It is important, especially with the cancellation of this year's annual events that we also check in on our fellow farmers. 2020 has been a year unlike any other for our farm families. That



Dan Swanson

phone call or check-in may be the bright spot for our brothers and sisters experiencing more social isolation than even farmers are accustomed. Please join me in checking-in with one another and talking about the challenges for this fraternity of farm families.

I ask you to stay safe this holiday season and winter. There are many challenges ahead and we must lean on each other when tough times like this come about. Send an anonymous care package to a friend. Check in on elderly neighbors and help them with prescription or grocery pickups. Call that estranged family member and

show them you care. As we dedicate ourselves to the land our forefathers cut from the prairies, we must dedicate ourselves to our neighbors who are cut from the same cloth, as well. Some of the last to ask for help, lets ensure the ask never has to be made because of our proactive care for one another.

May God's blessings be on you and your family during this Christmas Season and may God continue to bless this land that we love!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Central Illinois Pest Management, Inc Jennifer Ivie Tad Johnson Ralph C Norman Foundation

Eugene Sullivan Richard Berens

Elizabeth Flesher Stephen & Sherry Foster

Melody Gilbert Zachary Mitchell Jennifer Schmidt

Kiera Spilman Scott Talbert

Zachary Theobald Joseph & Brita Wilson

Getting To Know Your Farm Bureau Policy

99. COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

We support:

1. Legislation requiring Congress and the Illinois General Assembly to vote by a roll call vote on any legislation that would increase their pay or pension of its members

2. Pay and pension legislation being voted on separately and not being tied to unrelated legislation.

3. Legislation that would deny all state employment-related benefits to any state employee who is convicted under any federal, state, or local law of theft, embezzlement, or accepting bribes in connection with the employees service as a state employee. We support an amendment to the Illinois Pension Code and/or other current law to the extent necessary to implement this proposed legislation.

4. Capping the pension amount that a state legislator can receive regardless of their length of service or the position(s) they hold with the state after leaving the legislature.

5. Enabling elected local and state officials having access to a 457 plan rather than a taxpayer-funded pension.

6. Requiring public employees to contribute a greater amount to their own

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

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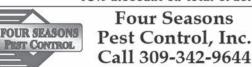
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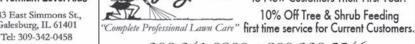
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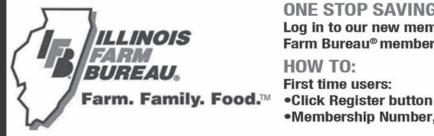
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Knox County Farm Bureau



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NEWS FROM COUNTRY FINANCIAL



winter home owner tips you can't afford to miss

If you live somewhere with brutal winters, it's important to take measures to protect your home from freezing temps. We tracked down a local builder to find out what the most important winterization tips are.

1) Disconnect your garden hoses. If you leave your garden hoses connected during winter, any water left inside the hose could freeze and cause the lining to crack. Also, if the main nozzle on your hose freezes, the ice could put

pressure on the pipes connected to your house which could cause them to crack or burst.

2) Keep the heat on. If you plan on being away from your home for a long period of time, do not turn off your heating system. We recommend you set your thermostat at 65 degrees or higher. This will help prevent pipes from freezing and bursting under extreme weather and temperature conditions. Additionally, it is a good idea to leave your

cabinet doors open and the faucet dripping at a pencil-thin stream during extremely cold

3) Shut off your water main if you're going away. Some homeowners like to turn off their water when they're away from their homes for a long period of time. You likely have two shut off handles: one before and one after the water meter. We suggest you shut off the one before the meter. Then, relieve the pressure in the system by opening all faucets in your home. Leaving the faucets open while you're gone is up to your own discretion.

4) Clean out your egress window wells. Keeping your window wells clean helps ensure your drains in the wells are free of any leaves or garbage, allowing for proper drain-

5) Seal your driveway. Consider sealing your driveway if you haven't done it before. Doing this before it gets too cold will help protect your driveway from the salt the

city uses on the streets during the winter months.

6) Do not use salt on your concrete. If you have a concrete driveway or sidewalks, do not use salt on them! Salt will pit the concrete. Sand is the only product guaranteed not to harm concrete. While sand does not melt the ice, it will make your driveways and sidewalks easier to walk on.

7) Clean out your gutters. Removing leaves and other debris from your gutters before winter can help prevent ice from forming inside the gutters. This can potentially prevent "ice damming," which can cause severe damage to the interior of a

8) Take care of your furnace. When is the last time you've changed your furnace filter? Make sure you are keeping up with your filter changes and be sure to call your HVAC service provider for your fall service checkup before winter hits.

October Board Highlights

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Knox County Farm Bureau was held on November 19, 2020 in person with some directors joining virtually.

Education & Outreach - Tara Bohnert

Holiday cheese orders are due December 4 and pick up will be December 15.

Farm Business - Todd West

Steve Johnson held a webinar on November 19 in place of our annual seminar.

Government and Policy – Jeff Link

Staff is organizing a Zoom meeting with our Adopted Legislator, Representative Lamont Robinson.

Member Relations – Matt Hulsizer Nothing to report at this time.

Foundation - Hailey Weyhrich The Foundation Board of Directors will meet on November 24, 2020 to approve the

2021 Budget. PrimeTimers - Hailey Weyhrich

Nothing to report currently. **Young Farmers – Jeff Grady**

Vest Central

The Cover Crop Project is ongoing. KAC - Hailey Weyhrich

The KAC Condominium Association Board will meet on November 24, 2020 to approve the 2021 Budget.

OLD BUSINESS

The IAA Annual Meeting was discussed. All delegates will be joining in the virtual Business Meeting and voting on policy at home. Due to Tier 3 Mitigations, Directors cannot meet in person.

The nomination committee will meet to recommend candidates for four director seats for the KCFB Annual Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2021 KCFB Budget was approved. The Ag in the Classroom Ag Day for Kids event on February 5, 2021 has been cancelled and will be moved virtually.

KCFB Board Attendance 2019-2020

(P) Present

	November	
Beard, Jennifer	P	(P) Presen
Bewley, Beau	P	(F) Fresen
Bohnert Yoder, Tara	Р	(A) Absent
Boydstun, Terry	P	
Cain, Jarid	Α	
DeSutter, Drew	Р	
Emken, Kurt	Р	
Engel, Lori	Р	
Goedeke, Phil	Р	
Grady, Jeff	Р	
Hennenfent, Matt	Р	
Hulsizer, Matt	Α	
King, Becky	Р	
Link, Jeff	Р	
Link, Nathan	Р	
Nelson, Brian	Р	
O'Connor, Tom	Р	
Stevens, Monica	Р	
Strom, Grant	Р	
Swanson, Brett	Р	
West, Todd	Р	

SPOTLIGHT

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

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

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

JASON LUMBERRY 309-342-1647

IOHN RYNFR 309-342-1607

JOE YOUNGMAN AGENCY MANAGER 309-686-7050

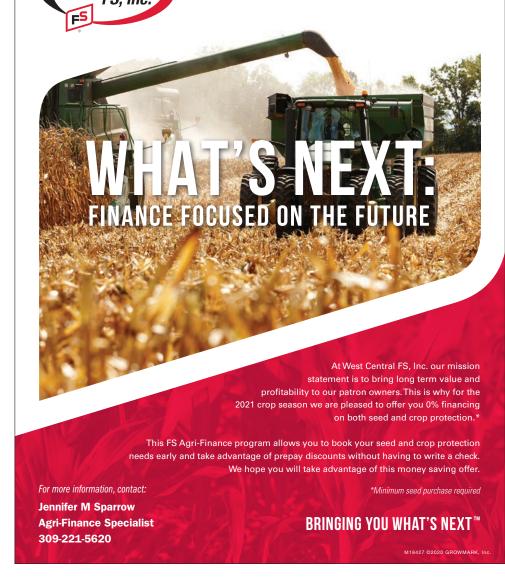
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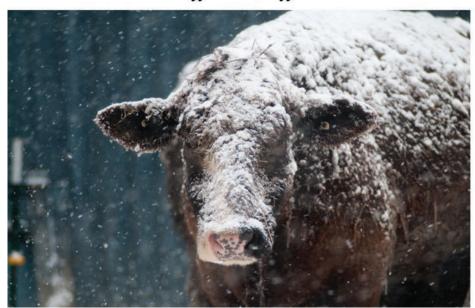


Hailey's Manager Update



I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I am excited to see what 2021 brings and optimistic life will be somewhat back to normal!

Movry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Knox County Farm Bureau Office Staff!



Reminder!

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& Outreach Task
Force Holiday
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Mike McKim





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Health on the Farm By the Knox County Health Department

Tips For A Safe and Healthy Holiday

The holidays are a great opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends to celebrate life, to be grateful, and to reflect on what's important. They are also a good time to take care of yourself.

Here are some holiday tips to support your efforts for health and safety during the season.

Eat Healthy and Be Active

stay active during the holidays. Healthy eating is all about balance and moderation. Holiday meals may tempt us away from our healthy eating habits. Allow yourself to have your favorite foods but stick to smaller servings and balance them with healthier options. Choose fresh fruit as a festive and sweet substitute eligible households to help with winter for candy.

Staying active can help you keep a healthy weight during the holiday season. can qualify with a gross (before taxes) Look for opportunities to work physical activities into your holiday: Go for a stroll after a family meal, play game of hide n seek outside, or dance to your favorite holiday music. It's important to move more and sit less.

Get Your Flu Vaccination

Influenza (flu) is more than a cold, or even a "bad cold." It can result in serious health complications. Few people get vaccinated against flu after the end of November even though flu activity peaks between December and February and can most festive celebrations. Each year, an last as late as May. If you didn't yet get a flu vaccination this season, it's not too late! CDC recommends that everyone age 6 months and older get vaccinated now if they have not already been vaccinated this season.

Flu vaccination can reduce your risk of getting sick with flu and can prevent serious flu complications. Flu vaccine has other benefits, too, including being life saving for children, protecting pregnant women and their babies, and reducing the risk of heart attack in people with heart disease.

Cope With Stress

Everyone—adults, teens, and even children – experiences stress from time to time. Feeling emotional and nervous or having trouble sleeping and eating can all be normal reactions to stress. Learning healthy ways to cope with stress and getting the right care and support can help reduce stressful feelings and symptoms.

Home Heating

Have your heating system, water heater, and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year to keep your family safe from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Install a battery-operated or It can be challenging to eat healthy and battery backup CO detector where it will awaken your family at night if the alarm is triggered.

> See if your family qualifies for the Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is a state and federally funded energy assistance program that provides one-time benefits to energy bills and for reconnection of energy service. A single-person household monthly income of up to \$2,127; a twoperson 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. Call 309-344-2224 to see if you qualify or to make an appointment.

Food Safety

Food poisoning can ruin even the estimated 1 in 6 Americans get sick from eating contaminated food.

Take simple steps to protect your family's health when you prepare and serve holiday meals such as:

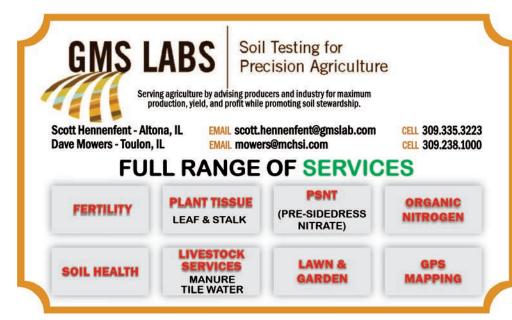
Wash your hands and work surfaces before, during, and after preparing food, and before eating.

Keep raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs separated during preparation.

Cook food at the right internal temperature to kill harmful germs. Use a food thermometer to check.

Refrigerate perishable foods, including leftovers, within two hours of buying or cooking.

For more information on flu vaccines, food safety or how to apply for LIHEAP please call your Knox County Health Department at 309-344-2224. Happy Holidays from all of us at the Knox County Health Department!





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Looking Back



December 1940



"Another year of successful cooperative effort by Illinois farmers in the field of casualty insurance comes to a close this month. More than 80,000 automobile, farmer employers liability, 4-H Club Calf and accident policies are now in force... total assets of the company exceed \$2,325,000...the auto policy has been further broadened and improved to give Farm Bureau members added protection at no additional cost."

PrimeTimers News

The committee did not meet in November and will not meet in December.

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 October. John signed 3 new associate members. Call your COUNTRY Representative for all your insurance and financial needs.

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