VOL. XCVIII USPS 297-360 February 2021

## Details on Applying the Farmland Assessment Law

Illinois' farmland assessment law was first passed in 1977 driven by efforts of the Illinois Farm Bureau'. Over the years, a few amendments were made to that law, the last of which was in 2013 - having long-lasting impact.

The law establishes a formula using capitalization to determine the assessed value of farmland based, in large part, on the soils potential to produce a crop, known as the soil's Productivity Index (PI). Prior to the Farmland Assessment Act, farmland was assessed based on its market value.

To reach an assessed value, the formula calculates the income potential of every soil based on its PI. Under the formula, calculations are based on data (collected over a 5-year rolling average) reflecting gross income minus non-land expenses per acre. The result is a per-acre net income.

The per-acre net income is then divided by a five-year average interest rate for new farm mortgages. That calculation establishes an Agricultural Economic Value (AEV) for each soil PI. That value is "equalized" by dividing it by three as farmland is assessed at 33.3 percent of its AEV.

However, there was a recent change to the law in 2013. That change, beginning with assessment year 2015 (taxes payable in 2016); amended section 35 ILCS 200/10-115 part (e) of the Property Tax Code. The new law now limits value changes of all PI soils to 10% of Illinois' median cropland soil PI. The median cropland soil PI in Illinois is a PI 111. The impact of this change allows Certified Values to increase up to 10% of soil PI 111's Certified Value from one year to the next. This change will result in increased assessment for several years.

Prior to the legislative amendment,

each PI was limited to an increase/decrease of 10% from its prior year's value.

The Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR), with the assistance of the University of Illinois, annually calculates these per-acre values for each soil PI. By May 1 of each year, these Values are provided to the counties. By January 1, local assessors begin applying these state Certified Values to the soil types on individual farms or farmland parcels to determine an assessment.

In order to apply the assessed values, the county assessor must first determine the classification (or use) of that farmland. The Illinois Property Tax Code defines those land-use classifications as follows:

Cropland – All lands from which crops are harvested or hay cut; lands in vineyards, nursery and greenhouse crops.

Permanent Pasture – Includes any pasture land, except woodland pasture & pasture land qualifying under cropland, (example -rotational pasture).

Other Farmland – Woodland pasture, woodland including woodlots, timber tracts, land in forestry programs and land under farm buildings.

Wasteland – Land that has no production value to the farm.

The property is then valued based on its land-use classification as provided below:

Cropland – Assessed at the soil's full value

Permanent Pasture – Assessed at 1/3 the soils value as cropland

Other Farmland – Assessed at 1/6 the soils value as cropland

Wasteland – Assessed on contributory value. If there is contributory value, it is assessed at 1/6 the value of the lowest soil PI. If there is no contributory value a zero assessment might be recommended.

It should be noted that homes and homesites on farmland are assessed like most residential property at 33.3% of fair market value. Also note that farm buildings are assessed based on their contributory value to the larger farming operation.

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Richard Dredge Sue Runyon Kimberly Johnson Noah Walraven Jason Waugh



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

# LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR BROADBAND NEEDS.

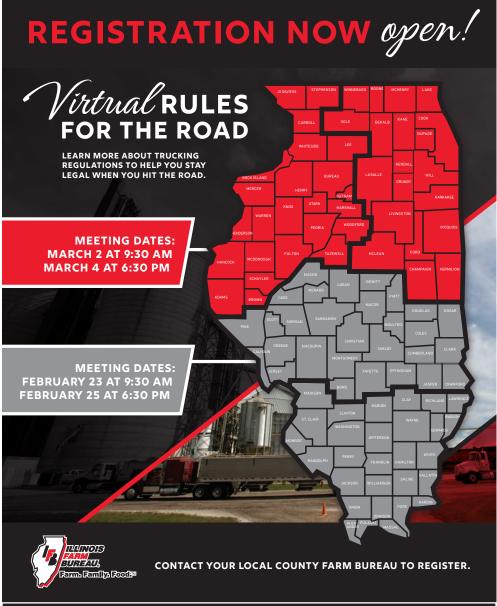
The Knox County Farm Bureau is conducting a survey to determine areas of our county that do not have sufficient or affordable broadband service.

To complete the survey, please visit surveymonkey.com/r/KnoxBroadband or use this QR code.

If you are unable to access the website, you may also call 309-342-2036 to complete the survey via phone.



You do not need to be a member of Knox County Farm Bureau to fill out a survey.



Those who register will receive a Rules of the Road book in the mail.

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.



February 2021
No. 2
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ASSOCIATION
and the
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
FEDERATION

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Thank You KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU



## Love for the land, Valentine month and beyond

On a westward drive to the home farm, my eyes drift to the tree-lined grassy knoll atop the Southeast Field. From that hilltop a good half mile off the gravel road, you can take in one of the best views of the home farm. Add in a brilliant sunset, and my heart feels the praise that we vocalize in unison at Sunday worship: God is good.

February brings the month to reflect on love, and a farm family's love for the land proves a unique, powerful, and spiritual bond. While better felt than described, the closest parallel seems a loving parent-child relationship. Farmers often name their

fields based on location, size, or ownership lineage. We monitor the land's health and nourish it. We identify its strengths and weaknesses and nurture within its abilities to reach its full potential. Then, we share in the land's accomplishments and failures at harvest

Spend enough time with the land and you learn where the deer travel, racoons roam, and bald eagles frequent. The biggest, oldest cottonwood and sycamore trees stand as landmarks at field edges in the Front Bottom and Fremont East Field. Our kids now fish as we did in the bordering river in the summer and hike the timber for morel mushrooms in the spring. During harvest, they dine on meals in the field and learn to drive tractors. By winter, they beg to sled at the first fall of snow on the soybean stubble at Beecher South.

In time, they will understand how rainwater moves across the land and to use modern precision technologies to implement nutrient management plans. Environmental impact guides our decisions for waterways, conservation practices, and minimum to no-tillage of the soils. Cover crops bring promise to build soil health and nutrient retention. Soil sampling remains a routine standard, something like bloodwork to monitor health. The land's temperature and touch tell its readiness to plant, and a weather-related app on our smartphones tell us the rainfall at each field under our care. Like generations before us, we tend the land with the tools, resources, and know-how of the time.

The timeless mission remains: Leave the land better than you found it. The mantra resonates across the state and nation, where farmers raise the next generation to love the land and fulfill their duty as temporary caretakers and stewards.

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

## Getting To Know Your Farm Bureau Policy

## H-2A Work Program We support:

- 1. Protection of the guest worker program to preserve the labor force required for farms.
- 2. Improvements to the guest worker program to help farms be profitable and operational for future generations by offering farms the ability to retain skilled labor and recruit workers to meet their farms' specialized needs.
- 3. Recruitment of repeat, qualified workforce for efficiency in working on a host farm.
- 4. Staggered dates of entry for the guest worker program.

- 5. Expanded accessibility to the H-2A guest worker program for other types of farming operations beyond specialty crops and dairy.
  - 6. Employer specific visas.
- 7. Farmer and worker shared expenses of the guest worker program visas, transportation and related expenses.
- 8. Withholding of state and federal payroll taxes from guest worker wages.
- 9. Streamlined administrative and application processes to apply for and utilize the guest worker program, with quicker and easier renewal from year to year if a farm has no changes from the previous year.

10. Administration and oversight of the H-2A guest worker program within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

#### We oppose:

- 1. Department of Labor's (DOL) administration of the H-2A guest worker program.
- 2. Increased state minimum wage and adverse effect wage requirements.
- 3. Increased administrative expenses of the guest worker program.
- 4. Administrative steps and paperwork that slow down the hiring process.

## IFB Rural Nurse Scholarship Application Available

Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be 15 scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, granted this year.

The scholarship program, now in its twenty-ninth year, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a Registered Nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program.

Applications are available at county

Farm Bureaus® throughout the state, on the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at RIMSAP.com, or by writing Donna Gallivan, program manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, PO Box 2901, Bloomington, IL 61702-2901. Applications are due May 1.

For additional information, contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350, or via email at dgallivan@ilfb.org.



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

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



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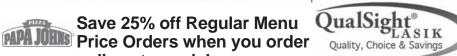
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County Farm Bureau

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First time users:

- Membership Number, do not include any letters

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COUNTRY

## NEWS FROM COUNTRY FINANCIAL

COUNTRY

## How to use a fire extinguisher

No one wants to think about a fire starting in their home, but it's important to know how (and when) to use a fire extinguisher in case the unthinkable happens. We spoke with Bloomington, IL Fire Department Public Education Officer, Stuart Blade, to learn some firefighting basics.

When should you try to extinguish the fire yourself?

Remember the three A's: Activate, assist

and attempt. You should only attempt to put out a fire on your own after completing the first two steps.

Activate: Depending on whether you're at home or a place of business, call 911 or pull the fire alarm.

Assist: As long as you're not putting yourself at risk, help anyone in immediate danger exit the building.

Attempt: After completing the first two

A's, you may choose to attempt to extinguish the fire. It's important to identify an exit before attempting to put out the fire in case you need to get out quickly.

How to use a fire extinguisher in four simple steps

- When using a fire extinguisher, remember to PASS (Pull, Aim, Squeeze and Sweep).
   Pull the pin
- Aim the hose at the base of the fire about six to eight feet away
- Squeeze the lever
- Sweep the flame using a side to side motion until the fire is out

Be sure to keep an eye on the area in case it re-ignites. To put out a grease fire, cover the fire with a lid or cookie sheet to cut off the oxygen source. You should never use an extinguisher on a grease fire because it could spread the flames making it much worse.

Never fight a fire on your own if:

- The fire is spreading at a fast pace
- The fire is past the "early stages"
- There is too much smoke

For these instances, it's important to evacuate and let the fire department handle it.

When do fire extinguishers expire?
Depending on the type, fire extinguishers can last anywhere between 5 and 15 years.
If you're not sure when yours expires – or didn't know to check the date on the box before recycling it – it's probably best to replace it after at least 10 years to be safe.
Non-rechargeable fire extinguishers are only good for one use. So, if you use it – even once – you'll need to replace it.

## January 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 January 21, 2021.

#### Education & Outreach – Tara Bohnert Yoder

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 - Jeff Link

A survey will be conducted by KCFB on members and county residents on their access to broadband.

#### Member Relations - Matt Hulsizer

Nothing to report at this time.

Foundation - Hailey Weyhrich

The Foundation Scholarship and Internship Application is available on the website and due February 15, 2021.

## **PrimeTimers – Hailey Weyhrich** Nothing to report currently.

Young Farmers - Jeff Grady

The Cover Crop Project has been awarded another \$10,000 for 2021.

#### KAC - Hailey Weyhrich

Outdoor lightning fixes have taken place. The Knox County Health Department is

using the building as a Unified Command Center for the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The KCFB Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 13. Quorum is 50 voting members. Nominations for director vacancies were approved.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was brought before the Board.

#### January Board Attendance

Beard, Jennifer	P
Bewley, Beau	Р
Bohnert Yoder, Tara	Р
Boydstun, Terry	Р
Cain, Jarid	Р
DeSutter, Drew	Р
Emken, Kurt	Р
Engel, Lori	Р
Goedeke, Phil	Р
Grady, Jeff	Р
Hennenfent, Matt	Р
Hulsizer, Matt	А
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



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- February 1, 2022 loan maturity date
- \$10,000 Loan Minimum
- FS InVISION™, FS HiSOY®, DEKALB®, Asgrow®, AgriGold, Credenz® & NK® seed brands
- Final seed sales must be equal to or greater than prior year's seed sales
- Seed cancellations of over 25% are subject to a 6% return fee

#### 0% Chemical Prepay

- Purchase 50% of your seed needs to qualify
- 0% to November 30, 2021
- Effective December 1, 2021, rate changes to Prime + 4.00% variable rate until maturity
   February 1, 2022 loan maturity date
- February 1, 2022 loan maturity date
   \$10,000 Loan Minimum
- \$10,000 Loan Minimum
   Only name broad short
- Only name brand chemicals qualify (no generics)

#### **Input Loans**

- All prepay and in-season crop input purchases
- Full term variable rate
- February 1, 2022 loan maturity date

#### **Precision Farming Equipment Loans**

- Amount < \$20,000: 1/2 down, 1/2 due 12 months, 0% interest</li>
- Amount > \$20,000: 1/3 down, 1/3 due 12 months, 1/3 due 24 months, 0% interest

For more information contact:

Jennifer Sparrow

Agri-Finance Marketing Manager (309) 221-5620



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## AGENT SPOTLIGHT



<u>Name:</u> John Ryner <u>Years with COUNTRY:</u> 21 years

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<u>eMail Address:</u> john.ryner@countryfinancial.com <u>Family:</u> Wife, Cathy. Sons, Jordan, Joshua, Rodel, Jonas, Jannus. <u>Education:</u> 1987 Bachelor of Science in Agri-Business from Truman

State University, Kirksville, MO

<u>Designations:</u> Investment Solutions Representative
<u>Awards:</u> Four-time All American and Ten-time All Star recipient; Honor Roll recipient
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## Is it Spring yet?

It's been a long winter, but Mrs. Green found some visits she could make to engage students. She visited a reindeer ranch called Whispering Pines in Shabbona, IL and selected books to expand students' knowledge.

Teachers were excited about the topic and in December, Mrs. Green virtually visited 25 classrooms to talk about the reindeer! She was able to show students antlers that had been shed by our native deer, so students understood how they are different from horns. Students learned that horns do not shed each year, like they do on reindeer. Students learned about similarities of reindeer and cows

Some students remembered learning about dairy cows and their four-compartment stomach. Now students know that reindeer also have a four-compartment stomach. Classrooms received nonfiction books about reindeer, or caribou as they are often called, and a few classrooms received the book *Reindeer Kisses* written by local retired teachers Tracy and Scott Snowman from Canton, Illinois.

January was spent creating Ag Day for Kids, virtually. All the same topics were presented to area fourth graders, and they even received Ag Bags filled with AgMags, coloring books, chap stick and pig erasers. Teachers received the link to the topics: Corn, Soybeans, Drones, Soil and Water Conservation, Pork, Dairy and Beef. More than 300 students from Knox County schools received Ag Bags. Thank you to those who came to the office to be filmed, those who sent in videos, and those who provided students with AgBag items.

February, Mrs. Green was able to visit two classrooms, complete with students!! It was the first time being in a school building since March 2020! She read the story, *The Hundred-Year Barn* by Patricia MacLachlan, a book that is recognized by IL Ag in the Classroom and part of the ag literacy program.

Kindergarten and first graders were able to see the barn dwelling farm animal puppets Mrs. Green brought to class. The remainder of February will find Mrs. Green zooming into some classrooms, but also likely visiting more classes in person. She is working to meet each district's covid expectations so she can continue to visit. She has her own cow, pig or general farm mask ready to represent agriculture.

Thinking Spring!

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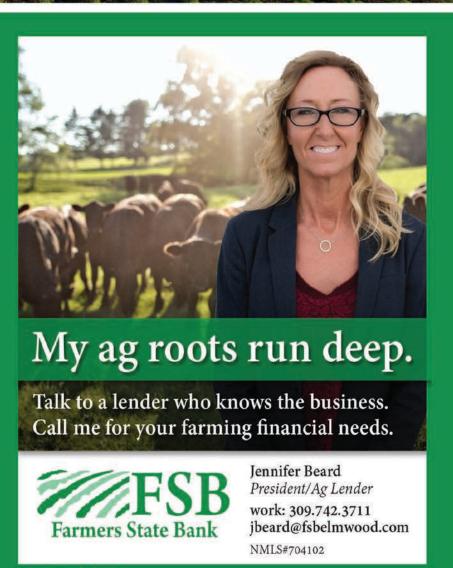


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## February Lessons and Activities Schedule Theme: Abraham Lincoln

February Classroom Challenge: Tin Foil January 27th

Subtheme: Transportation

Flatboat

January 28th Lesson for the week of February 1st:

L is For Lincoln

February 3rd Family Cooking Challenge: Mary Todd

Lincoln's Almond Cake

Lesson for the week of February 8th: February 4th

Transportation

Virtual Field Trip: Mt. Pulaski Courthouse February 4th

Lesson for the week of February 15th: February 11th

Navigating IL Waters

February 11th Virtual Author Visit: Peggy Thomas,

Lincoln Clears a Path

February 12th Family Engagement Challenge: Polish a

Penny

February 18th Lesson for the week of February 22nd:

Lincoln's Patent

February 20th March PD in Your PJ's

All activities and lessons will be released on the IAITC Facebook and Instagram pages on their release dates.

## Health on the Farm

By the Knox County Health Department



## February is Dental Health Month Sipping, Snacking and Tooth

Many parents across the country will issue eating. But there is a risk for tooth decay a common refrain at dinnertime tonight: -You'd better eat that--it's good for you!

arsenal of dietary admonitions: Don't eat that—it'll rot your teeth!

Now more than ever, kids are faced with a bewildering array of food choices, from fresh produce to sugar-laden processed convenience meals and snack foods. What children eat and when they eat it may affect not only their general health but also their oral health.

Americans are consuming foods and drinks high in sugar and starches more often and in larger portions than ever before. It's clear that junk foods and drinks gradually have replaced nutritious beverages and foods for many people. For example, the average teenage boy in the U.S. consumes 81 gallons of soft drinks each year! Alarmingly, a steady diet of sugary foods and drinks can ruin teeth, especially among those who snack throughout the day. Common activities may contribute to the tendency toward tooth decay. These include; grazing habitually on foods with minimal nutritional value, and frequently sipping on sugary drinks.

When sugar is consumed over and over again in large, often hidden amounts, the harmful effect on teeth can be dramatic. Sugar on teeth provides food for bacteria, which produce acid. The acid in turn can eat away the enamel on teeth.

Almost all foods have some type of sugar that cannot and should not be eliminated from our diets. Many of these foods contain important nutrients and add enjoyment to

from a diet high in sugars and starches. Starches can be found in everything from There's another old favorite in the parental bread to pretzels to salad dressing, so read labels and plan carefully for a balanced, nutritious diet for you and your kids.

Reduce your children's risk of tooth decay:

- Sugary foods and drinks should be consumed with meals. Saliva production increases during meals and helps neutralize acid production and rinse food particles from the mouth.
- Limit between-meal snacks. If kids crave a snack, offer them nutritious foods.
- If your kids chew gum, make it sugarless - Chewing sugarless gum after eating can increase saliva flow and help wash out food and decayproducing acid.
- Monitor beverage consumption Children should make healthy beverage choices such water and lowfat milk.
- Help your children develop good brushing and flossing habits.
- Schedule regular dental visits.

The Knox County Health Department and Knox County Community Health Center remind everyone to take care of their teeth. Good brushing and flossing habits, starting at an early age can lead to a lifetime of healthy teeth. Children should brush their teeth with the help of an adult at least twice a day and floss at least once a day. Please call the Knox Community Health Center at 309-344-2225 to schedule an appointment with one of our dentists.



## Looking Back



**Looking Back - February 1975** 

#### "Entertainment for Everyone"

The Knox County Young Farmers will host a good old fashioned square dance, intended for the entire Farm Bureau membership, February 22 at 7:30 at the Victoria Community Center, next to the fire department. This promises to be a lot of fun and a good buy as well, at only \$2.00 per couple. Free soft drinks for all thirsty dancers. Tickets may be purchased from your township Young Farmer's Committee representative or at the door.

Do you enjoy roller skating, or can't you remember the last time you tried? The Young Farmers are sponsoring a skating party at Grand's Roller Rink, March 25, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Skate rental is only \$.40 per person, so bring the entire family and maybe you'll see some of your neighbors.

#### **PrimeTimers News**

The committee did not meet in January and will not meet in February.

## MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER OF THE MONTH

The Knox County Farm Bureau would like to recognize all the COUNTRY Financial Representatives in the county for their dedication and hard work. There was no top membership recruiter for the month of January. Call your COUNTRY Representative for all your insurance and financial needs.

#### **Crockpot Chicken N' Noodles**

- 3 Large Chicken Breasts or 6-7 Small breasts
- 3 Cans Cream of Chicken Soup
- 42 Oz Chicken Broth
- 1 ½ Sticks Butter, Sliced
- 24 oz Package Frozen Egg Noodles

Place first four ingredients in crockpot.

Cook on low 8 hours. During the last hour of cooking time, remove chicken from crockpot and shred. Add 24 oz package Frozen Egg Noodles and shredded chicken back into the crockpot. Continue to cook one more hour. Serve over mashed potatoes or biscuits.



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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.

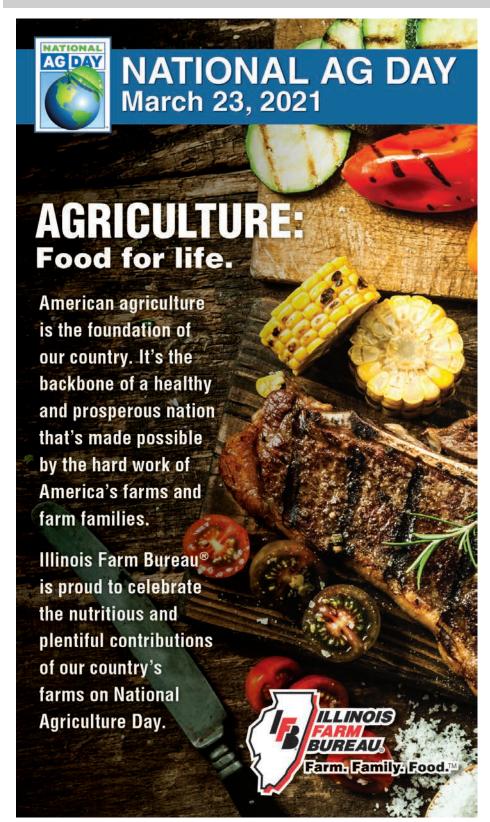
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If you sell your items, please contact the Knox County Farm Bureau office at 309-342-2036 or email assistant@knoxcfb.org, so we can provide our readers with up-to-date information.





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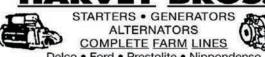
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