

Bulletin



NUM. 9

Forrest Inness
Beverly Graham
Nancy Danner
Christopher Dejaynes
Donald & Maggie Hillery
Mitchell Hinton
Savannah Landis
Mary Lydic
Nancy Reed
Bret & Kelly Rickords
Matthew & Angela Stegall

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.



September 2020

No. 9

Published Monthly by:
KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU, Inc.
cooperating with the
ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL
ASSOCIATION
and the
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
FEDERATION

The Knox Co. Farm Bureau Bulletin (ISSN 0892-1156) is published monthly with a subscription price of \$.50 per year. Periodicals Postage paid at Galesburg, IL 61401-9998

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

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Monday thru Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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PLEASE REPORT ANY CHANGES IN YOUR ADDRESS TO OUR OFFICE

Thank You

KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU



Harvest routine brings normalcy during pandemic

I hold out hope that the upcoming harvest season delivers a 60-day dose of normalcy, seldom felt since COVID-19 changed our lives. The pandemic-friendly activity naturally isolates us to the cabs of trucks, tractors and combines. We drive all day yet stay within a 15-mile radius of home. And as usual, our social schedule works around the priority task of harvest, an easier feat this year now that COVID-19 has cleared the calendar.

The local agriculture festival is canceled.

The kids' fall sports seasons are postponed. And the 7th grader and freshman in our household will start the school year 100% remotely, making high-speed internet and mobile hotspots a necessity. Remote will reach another level if the kids take their studies along during harvest with me on Snakeden Road, a middle-of-nowhere gravel road as winding as its name implies.

Similarly, harvest provides a time for schooling on the farm. In fact, this season may teach us more about the production impacts of planting decisions than the last several have. The crop struggled at its start in undesirably cool soil temperatures, fitting of the mood of the COVID-19 pandemic at the time. The economic shutdowns combined with decisions about when to plant made this spring as stressful as the unprecedented planting season last year.

We need a mental reprieve, a feeling of normalcy, and objectives that we can see

Legislative Update: Spring Session action-packed

by State Senator Chuck Weaver
(R-Peoria, 37th District)

We had a brief and discouraging, but also action-packed end to the 2020 spring session. The Senate met at the State Capitol from May 20 to 24, and the House of Representatives met at the Bank of Springfield Center from May 20 to 23.

During that time, the two chambers passed a budget filled with money borrowed from the federal government and unrealistic state income, gas, and gaming tax revenue estimates. Even though our tax revenues and receipts are down precipitously, our Fiscal Year 2021 budget is based on the previous Fiscal Year 2020 budget. In other words, Springfield passed a budget with the same spending but with less money. That is irresponsible. It remains to be seen whether and how the long-term effects of COVID-19 and the ensuing shutdowns/closures will impact our state's finances during the current and future fiscal years. "Rebuild Illinois" and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) projects were fully funded, but pre-K and K-12 was not. We also borrowed heavily to pay record-breaking unemployment claims. That money must be repaid to the federal government over the next several years. I voted "no" on the spending and borrowing measures.

Other major legislation passed during May was the hospital assessment program. I voted "yes" on the hospital assessment legislation, which more fairly allocated money to hospitals based on need.

The one piece of legislation we were hoping to vote on – but was never called – was Leader Bill Brady's proposal (SB 3993) to address and codify the Governor's emergency powers, and limit the Governor's ability to unilaterally impose emergency rules and



mandates. Many of my Senate colleagues and I were hoping that Leader Brady's legislation or a similar measure would be called and considered by both chambers of the General Assembly, and that we would be able

to vote on such an important topic that affects all Illinoisans. That was not the case, but we will continue pushing for a vote.

2020 Veto Session

While we are not 100 percent certain if it will occur, the annual fall veto session is scheduled for November 17-19 and December 2-4. The General Assembly has proven it can safely assemble, which will allow our government to keep its promise of democratic representation, which is not currently happening through Executive Orders.

If veto session actually takes place, we are expecting a wave of bills and activity. Keep an eye on legislation such as the "Clean Energy Jobs Act" (SB 2132 and HB 3624), and watch for potential major legislation pertaining to ethics as a result of the ComEd bribery issues. We expect to also deal with the recently-announced Exelon plant closures. Illinois receives 50 percent of its power from nuclear sources, and four years ago it took a Herculean effort to save the nuclear power sector in Illinois. History may repeat itself.

JCAR and CARES Act concerns

As many of you may know, in mid-May the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) voted down the Illinois Department of Public Health's initial mask mandate

and achieve. Harvest season brings attainable goals we can check off field by field.

Farm families everywhere can relate to the long hours and natural isolation to gather the harvest. Together, we share satisfaction in productive harvest days and empathize with mechanical breakdowns that derail the task. We relish October sunsets and realize that a hot meal delivered to the field satisfies more than hunger. When it rains, the day fills with maintenance jobs, bookwork, and overdue haircuts, assuming no further barber shop shutdowns.

Consistent with the encouraging messages of the pandemic, "We're in this harvest together." We felt that bond with fellow farm families far before COVID made the phrase popular. Harvest makes it natural to do our part to help ensure normal returns.

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

rule. Many thought this rule was overbearing and punitive, and thanks to a statewide call to action, the rule was not upheld and the Department was forced back to the drawing board. Unfortunately, however, after a few months of negotiations, JCAR voted in mid-August to uphold the Department's second set of rules. Local officials may (not shall) now file misdemeanor charges and issue fines against business owners and other entities that do not enforce mask-wearing requirements. I was, and still am, opposed to any such rule. Businesses should not be forced to be enforcers of the law with regard to their customers.

I have also continued pushing for downstate counties and municipalities to receive their fair share of federal CARES Act funds. I have called on the Pritzker Administration to open the application and vetting process up and to award funding in a transparent and equitable manner. I will continue this fight.

Graduated Income Tax

While elected officials are expressly prohibited from using state resources to comment on the upcoming "Fair Tax" amendment, ethics laws allow us to share how we voted. I did vote "no" on the measures that officially placed the amendment on the 2020 fall ballot and the language setting the rates. I am also allowed to remind folks that the amendment is on the ballot. You may have received, or will receive, a formal explanation as to what the amendment would do and what "yes" and "no" votes mean.

If you have any questions about the tax amendment's language, you can reach out to either my Peoria or Springfield offices, or your county clerk for assistance. As always you can call my cell at 309-360-4779.

Getting To Know Your Farm Bureau Policy

100. ELECTIONS

We will actively participate in any legislation and other activities that will involve electoral reforms.

We support:

1. State legislation modifying the present consolidated election law so that the right of secret ballot is protected.
2. Shortening political campaigns by moving primaries closer to general elections, provided county clerks have ample time to prepare for the general election.
3. A limit on campaign spending and franking privileges.
4. Reforming federal campaign laws to include:
 - A. A strengthening of campaign spending limitation laws to prevent abuse through the use of "soft money" and independent expenditures.
 - B. An increase in the allowable contribu-

tion an individual may make to a candidate.

5. Requiring individuals registering to vote, and during voting, presenting government issued photo identification.
 6. Consolidating elections in order to streamline the system and reduce taxpayers' expense.
 7. Reducing the number of required election judges from five to three for every precinct in counties with a population of 250,000 or less should the local election authority so desire.
 8. Greater oversight and enforcement of voter fraud of elections by the Illinois State Board of Elections.
 9. Uniform signature requirements, on nominating petitions, regardless of political party for candidates seeking public office.
- We oppose:
1. The use of the Internet for voting in any local, state, or federal election.

2. The current Illinois Undervote Notification Law and will support legislation to repeal it.

3. The use of campaign phone calls that are made to households that are on a do-not-call list.

4. Same day voter registration unless the following conditions are met:

A. All voter registrations done on Election Day take place at a county designated government facility.

B. A valid photo ID is required at the time of registration.


C. Full funding of same day voter registration be provided by the State of Illinois to ensure this is not a burdensome unfunded mandate on local governments.

D. Legislation be passed to require uniform statewide standards for the voter registration process.

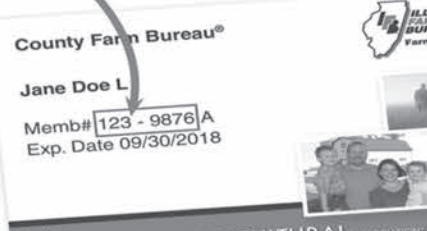
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You only have one identity, get proactive to keep it safe

We live in a connected world, where our bank accounts, our addresses, even our identities are online and can be vulnerable. It can be easy to blame identity theft on anonymous hackers and think that our personal information will never be at risk, but being safe means being savvy, and understanding how you can protect your identity.

- Identity theft can happen in a number of ways:
- Mail stolen from unlocked or open mailboxes
- Computer hacks due to poor privacy settings or firewalls

- Dumpster diving for proprietary information
 - Purchasing fraudulent identities on the black market
- It can seem overwhelming, but there are ways that you can keep your identity safe and minimize your risk for identity theft:
- Shred any mail you're discarding, and have mail held when you're out of town
 - Review your credit reports often for any anomalies, and check your bank statements regularly
 - Create strong passwords, never use your birthday, and try to use different passwords for different accounts.

August Board Highlights

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Knox County Farm Bureau was held on August 20, 2020 in person with 5 directors joining virtually.

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

Farm Business – Todd West
Steve Johnson is continuing to offer free webinars.

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

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

Foundation – Hailey Weyhrich
The Foundation Board of Directors

will meet on August 26. Jim Walker and Mike Hennenfent memorials will be coming in.

PrimeTimers – Hailey Weyhrich
Nothing to report currently.

Young Farmers – Jeff Grady
The Cover Crop Project is ongoing.

KAC – Hailey Weyhrich
Condominium Association will meet on August 26.

OLD BUSINESS
Supporters of the Watershed Plan Nutrient Stewardship Grant were announced. This included legislators and Congresswoman Cheri Bustos as well as county SWCD's.

KCFB had great support for the Knox County Youth Livestock Expo. The livestock show on Saturday went better than the horse show on Sunday due to bad weather.

NEW BUSINESS
Congresswoman Cheri Bustos will be holding a zoom call with Mercer and Knox County Farm Bureaus on August 25.

	Aug.
Beard, Jennifer	P
Bewley, Beau	P
Bohnert Yoder, Tara	P
Boydston, Terry	P
Cain, Jarid	P
DeSutter, Drew	P
Emken, Kurt*	P
Engel, Lori	P
Goedeke, Phil	P
Grady, Jeff*	P
Hennenfent, Matt	P
Hulsizer, Matt	P
King, Becky	P
Link, Jeff	P
Link, Nathan	A
Nelson, Brian	P
O'Connor, Tom	P
Stevens, Monica	P
Strom, Grant	P
Swanson, Brett	P
West, Todd	P

(P) Present
(A) Absent

AGENT SPOTLIGHT



Name: Ed Johnson
Years with COUNTRY: 14
Office Address: 635 N. Seminary St., Galesburg, IL 61401
Phone: 309-342-1646
eMail Address: ed.johnson@countryfinancial.com
Family: Carie - wife; Daughters - Cora and Ellie
Education: Bachelor of Science - Agriculture Business, Western Illinois University
Designations: Investment Solutions Representative
Awards: All American, Executive Club, Million Dollar Round Table
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Hailey's Manager Update

Well, another month has quickly come and gone. I think by the time you receive this month's edition of the Bulletin, you might be seeing combines rolling.

Excuse me while I get on my soap box... please give combines and farm equipment room when you are sharing the road with them. Use caution, slow down, and share the road. Banners just arrived today that will be up around the county reminding drivers of those three things. These farmers are trying to feed the world during a pandemic! I know this is my same message every Spring and Fall but it is just so important. Equipment is getting bigger and bigger and farmers must focus on their driving, not everyone else's.

They are working day and night to provide food to our families and communities so give them time and enjoy a good ole "tractor jam".



Unconventional Summer For Intern

This summer will certainly be one for the history books and though it was not the conventional summer the office looks forward to every year, I still enjoyed my time as the KCFB Foundation Intern.

I wanted to step out of comfort zone this summer with the different projects I worked on over the past couple of months. Planning the 4th Annual Foundation Golf Outing and not knowing anything about the world of golf, I was certainly stepping out of my comfort zone.

The Intern Seminar I virtually attended I was shown how Illinois Farm Bureau can provide a multitude of opportunities for its members and future members through a variety of programs and events. Seeing the community that surrounds Knox County Farm Bureau taught me that even in the uncertain times we are facing right now the community is still here to support our efforts in bringing you numerous ways to exhibit your passion for agricultural through your career or special interest.

It was a pleasure working in the office this summer and learning about what Knox County Farm Bureau has to offer its members and community.

Over the past few months, I was pushed out of my comfort zone in way I would have never imagined, but ultimately what I learned is that agriculture is all encompassing and Knox County Farm Bureau is here to serve our members and community. I will take this lesson and much more with me as I head back to Augustana this fall. Thank You Knox County!

Olivia Bates
Knox County Farm Bureau
Intern 2020





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Herbaceous invasive plants can be mechanically removed and treated any time of the year. Follow-up chemical maintenance is required to bring your land back to its original state.

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Health on the Farm

By the Knox County Health Department

National Food Safety Education Month: Do You Know the Steps for Food Safety

September is National Food Safety Education Month and it's the perfect time to learn the key steps for food safety; Clean, Separate, Cook, and Chill. Not sure how to include these steps when prepping and cooking at home?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Safety in Your Kitchen materials provide food safety information to help you plan your next meal. You'll find delicious recipes (with steps for food safety already built in), fact sheets, and tips on safe meal prep, storage, and shopping. And, if you are a young adult, the Everyday Food Safety materials can help you learn the basics of food safety. The materials include a helpful video and tip sheets on each of the steps below.

Clean

- Wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds before and after handling food.
- Wash all produce thoroughly under running water, so dirt and bacteria are not transferred from the surface when peeling or cutting produce.
- Wash your cutting boards, dishes, cooking tool, and countertops with hot soapy water after preparing each food item.

Separate

- Raw meat, poultry, seafood, eggs,

and flour should not come in contact with foods that are ready to eat, such as produce. Keep them separate while shopping, storing, or cooking.

- Use a separate set of cooking tools for raw meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, and flour.
- Don't reuse marinades used on raw foods unless you bring them to a boil first.

Cook

- Check the temperature with a food thermometer! Make sure food is cooked to a safe internal temperature before you eat it. Not sure what that correct temperature is? Here's a quick reminder:
- Poultry should be cooked to 165° F.
- Ground meat, meat mixtures, and egg dishes should be cooked to 160° F.
- Beef, pork, and ham should be cooked to 145° F and allowed to rest for 3 minutes.
- Fish and seafood should be cooked to 145° F.

Chill

- Refrigerate or freeze meat, poultry, eggs, seafood, and other perishables within 2 hours of purchasing or cooking (or 1 hour if kept in air temperatures above 90° F).

Erma Reynolds

Continued From Page 1

Erma's day, the farmer would maintain and repair the tractors. Today, farmers rely on specialized mechanics to manage the maintenance and repairs.

Erma recalled a time when her father was changing the oil in the tractor. He had taken out the bolts and put them in the oil pan. It was about time for dinner, so he went inside to eat. When he returned, the bolts were gone. He asked the children, "Who took the bolts from the oil pan?". No one confessed. A few months later, when Erma's mother was butchering the geese, the bolts were discovered in their gizzards!

Erma writes poetry, and when the invention of electricity came along, she included it in her poem "Remember When". The following verses came from her poetry book she titled, **Leaves of Life**.

In the year of '33 and before electricity,
These memories came to me,
Wicks to trim, chimneys to clean

Fill the Aladdin with kerosene.
Now, many had the helping of Deco power,
We waited for R.E.A. by the hour,
But man alive in thirty-five
Farm homes, came alive.

Her poem also included even more inventions: hot and cold running water, electric stoves and refrigerators, television, air conditioners and even electric sewing machines!

Erma's Tips for Living to 100

Eat well - Eat three well balanced meals a day
Exercise - Walking to school and to get the cows provided exercise on the farm for Erma. Today she still takes instruction at The Kensington.

Get Fresh Air - Erma enjoyed the freedom of living on a farm with plenty of fresh air.

Erma lived on the farm for over 50 years, taught school, worked at Singer and sewed draperies for Sears and Roebuck. Today, she continues her service to the Farm Bureau as the chairwoman of the Prime Timers. So, Erma, Cheers to 100 years!

- Never thaw food on the countertop! For defrosting, stick to using the fridge, immersing food in cold water (change water every half hour to make sure it stays cold) or using cold running water, or thaw during cooking, such as thawing in the microwave and immediately cooking.
- For more information regarding Food Safety Month please contact the Knox County Health Department at 309.344.2224.

Need Help Paying Your Power Bill?
Have A Disconnect?
We Can Help!

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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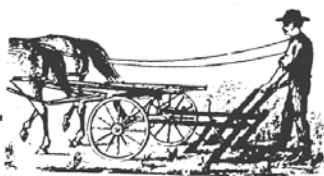
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Knoxville, Illinois

Looking Back



During a good ‘ole Farm Bureau fall cleaning, the last typewriter of the office was found. Here is a picture of it at right!



PrimeTimers News

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

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER OF THE MONTH

The Knox County Farm Bureau would like to recognize COUNTRY Financial Representative Jason Lumberry as the top membership recruiter in August. Jason signed 4 new associate members.
Call your COUNTRY Representative for all your insurance and financial needs.

Ag in the Classroom Update

Area schools are now officially open, but with a limited schedule or at home Elearning. Mrs. Green has been connecting with teachers via email to assess their needs as they enter the uncharted waters of teaching during a pandemic.

With the help of Illinois Ag in the Classroom, coordinators have been working on using social media and video to reach students. Currently, Knox County Ag in the Classroom has created a pollinator video with Ms. Aggie and a winter sowing of milkweed seeds video for the virtual Monarch Migration Festival. She continues to work on a teacher’s gardening video and the pollinator plot videos from Lakeside..

At the beginning of September, Mrs. Green and Ms. Aggie worked with preschoolers as part of the Galesburg Recreation program called Little Sprouts. Little Sprouts is held at Lakeside Nature Center for children ages 2-5 years old, accompanied by an adult, once a month. They learned about the monarch butterfly by listening to a story called The Very Hungry Illinois Caterpillar. The caterpil-



lar eats foods grown in Illinois. Using a puppet show presentation, children learn that the only food monarch caterpillars eat is milkweed. Caterpillars and butterflies were activities each child and adult worked on together.

Later this month, a virtual coordinators’ meeting will be held. Usually held in Bloomington, it will update coordinators with lessons and information regarding last year’s grant. Mrs. Green continues to work on portable agriculture lessons for teachers and public agencies. Anyone who would like more information on available portable lessons can call the Knox County Farm Bureau at 309-342-2036.

~ CLASSIFIED ADS ~

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