

Bulletin

Promoting the understanding of agriculture in our community to improve the profitability of farmers and enrich the quality of life in Knox County

VOL. XCIII

USPS 297-360

January 2015

No. 1

Knox County Farm Bureau Recognized At IFB Annual Meeting

The Knox County Farm Bureau was recognized for its achievements during the 100th annual meeting of the Illinois Farm Bureau held in Chicago December 6-9, 2014.

A member of Membership Group III, Knox County received the following program awards:

Gold

Ag Literacy
Communication & Promotion
Member Relations

Silver

Commodities & Marketing
Health & Safety
Legislative/Political Process
Local Affairs
Policy Development



Knox County Farm Bureau President Tim Main accepts a recognition plaque awarded to the Bureau for its achievements during 2014. The award was presented during the Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and calls attention to the comprehensive nature of county Farm Bureau programs.

County Farm Bureaus in Membership Group III are those with 2,121-2,995 members.

As part of its Annual Meeting, Illinois Farm Bureau presents program and committee awards in recognition of outstanding county Farm Bureau volunteer efforts throughout the year.

The Illinois Farm Bureau is a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation, a national organization of farmers and ranchers. Founded in 1916, IFB is a non-profit, membership organization controlled by farmers who join through their county Farm Bureau. IFB represents two out of three Illinois farmers.



Congratulations to KCFB Young Farmers Chairman Drew DeSutter for making it to the Sweet 16 Young Leaders Discussion Meet at the 2014 IFB Annual Meeting.

Knox County Bylaw Changes to be Made

During the upcoming annual meeting, the membership will be voting to change the Knox County Farm Bureau Bylaws. We hope you will consider attending the meeting on January 17, 2015.

In December 2013, the delegates at the IAA Annual Meeting voted to approve a Resolution to implement the combined dues billing with COUNTRY Financial throughout Illinois. In order to operate under the combined billing standards changes need to be made to the Knox County Farm Bureau Bylaws.

In addition, the Knox County Farm Bureau Board of Directors is seeking authority to change the Knox County Farm Bureau Bylaws. Currently, Knox County is the only county Farm Bureau in Illinois to require a meeting of the membership in order to change the Bylaws. In order to keep up with the demand of changes in the industry, we believe it is in the best interest of the organization to allow the Knox County Farm Bureau Board of Directors authority to the change the Knox County Farm Bureau Bylaws.

Lastly, there are a few additional changes to be made for director qualifications to include those who farm or own farm ground to qualify for Director in those particular districts.

If you have questions about the changes to be made, please feel free to contact our office at (309) 342-2036 or knoxcfb@knoxcfb.org.



Ms. Aggie visited the KCFB adopted classrooms at St. Symphorosa in Chicago during the 2014 IAA Annual Meeting. These pre-kindergarteners learned about turkeys and corn.



KCFB Directors enjoyed dinner with State Representative Don Moffitt, State Representative Norine Hammond, and State Representative La Shawn Ford during the 2014 IFB Annual Meeting in Chicago.

**Knox County Pork Producers Association
58th Annual Meeting
January 23, 2015 - 6:30 PM
Lake Storey Pavilion**

Welcome New Members

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

John Borchers, Galesburg	Stanley Pierce, Altona
Thomas C. Bricker, St. Augustine	Richard Smith, Galesburg
Thomas C. Chatterton, Galesburg	Sumer Stotler, Altona
G. Christine Morss, Galesburg	Jacob A. Valent, Galesburg

KCFB Foundation Sponsors Summer Internship Program

The Knox County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering an internship with the Knox County Farm Bureau for the summer of 2015. The intern will receive a \$1,500 scholarship and is encouraged to explore the possibility of using the internship to fulfill academic requirements for his/her major.

This is the 23rd year for the program, which continues to be very successful. The internship is open to Knox County residents who will be a sophomore, junior, senior, or full-time graduate student at a college or university during the fall 2015 semester. Preference is given to applicants who have a farm background and/or are studying an agricultural-related field. An applicant's summer schedule should allow them the flexibility to work half or full days, and attend evening meetings when necessary. The intern's responsibilities will include: coverage of Farm Bureau activities, media relations, marketing, public relations, program planning and coordination.

The internship will begin in the middle of May and go until the first part of August. The individual will be required to work between 20-25 hours per week, and this includes several night meetings and attendance at activities. However, the schedule will be flexible to suit the intern's availability.

For more information and/or an application, please contact the Knox County Farm Bureau office at 309/342-2036; e-mail: knoxcfb@knoxcfb.org; or visit our website: www.knoxcfb.org/foundation/internship. Applications are due February 16, 2015.

Thomas Lincoln Scholarship Applications Available

The Knox County Farm Bureau Foundation is currently accepting applications for the Thomas Lincoln Scholarship, awarded annually in memory of Thomas Lincoln, a Knox County Farm Bureau Young Farmer who died in a tragic car accident.

A \$500 scholarship will be given in the spring of 2015 to a graduating high school senior who is a Knox County resident and has been accepted into an agricultural or agricultural-related curriculum at any college or university in the fall of 2015. Selection is based on a combination of academic achievement, ag-related youth activities, as well as community and civic activities and a 250-500 word essay.

Applications are available on the Knox County Farm Bureau website at www.knoxcfb.org/foundation/scholarships or at the Knox County Farm Bureau office located at 180 S. Soangetaha Road, Galesburg. The deadline to apply is February 16, 2015. For more information, please contact Kate Lansaw at the Knox County Farm Bureau office at: 309/342-2036; or e-mail at: knoxcfb@knoxcfb.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

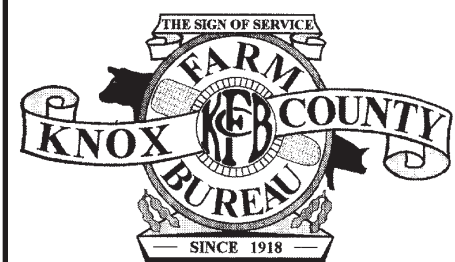
JANUARY

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 1 | New Years Day, Office Closed |
| 7 | Marketing Club, E. Main St. Pizza Hut, 12:30 PM |
| 8 | Young Farmers Meeting, KAC, 7:00 PM |
| 9 | Knox Ag Roundtable, KAC, 12:00 PM |
| 15 | KCFB Board Meeting, KAC, 7:00 PM |
| 17 | KCFB Annual Meeting, Lake Storey Pavilion, 10:00 AM |
| 20 | Prime Timers Meeting, KAC, 12:00 PM |
| 21 | Marketing Club, E. Main St. Pizza Hut, 12:30 PM |
| 23 | KCPPA Annual Meeting, Lake Storey Pavilion, 6:30 PM |
| 23-24 | IFB State Young Leaders Conference, Normal, IL |
| 26 | Farm Bill Meeting, Lake Storey Pavilion, 8:00 AM |

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|----|--|
| 6 | Knox Ag Roundtable, KAC, 12:00 PM |
| 12 | Young Farmers Meeting, KAC, 7:00 PM |
| 17 | Prime Timers Meeting, KAC, 12:00 PM |
| 19 | KCFB Board Meeting, KAC, 7:00 PM |
| 24 | KCFB Foundation Meeting, KAC 6:30 PM |
| 24 | Knox Agri Center Meeting, KAC, 7:30 PM |

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.



JANUARY 2015

No. 1

Published Monthly

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.,
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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.

Thank You
KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU



Farm Gate

by Joanie Stiers

Winter meals wrap us in a wholesome blanket

Even a great day improved when homemade beef stew and dumplings made the table center during my childhood. The repurposed meal rated more delicious than even the roast beef supper that Mom prepared the night before. It smelled fantastic, too. And to this day, this main course dishes out as much happiness to my spirit as beefy vegetable goodness to my taste buds.

Likewise, homemade meatballs rank our

kids' top supper-time craving. They praise "meatballs" in a chorus that triggers a game of jinx, "jinx back" and a few minutes of silliness and tight lips associated with this game they learned at school. In short, when the four of us or visiting relatives need a pick-me-up from the winter blahs, meatballs provide a remedy. I'm thrilled when a batch waits in the freezer – fewer dishes and less prep time in the kitchen.

During winter's claustrophobic tendencies, food becomes the star at our home. On occasion, we opt for a night out on restaurant gift cards from Christmas. But when we account for a one-hour round trip to a city with chain restaurants, a night at home in the depths of farm country makes more sense on a school night.

Food should be enjoyed in a healthy balance for more than its nutritious attributes, a University of Illinois research dietitian once wrote in a farm publication. "Food is tied to our memories and culture and should be celebrated and enjoyed," she said. I agreed so much that I added the clip to the meaningful quotes and phrases on my office cork board.

For years we have relished homemade chicken noodle soup at the family table. Chili and cream of broccoli soup

tantalize taste buds, too, particularly with homemade rolls and home-preserved jams, my husband adds. Roast with one to two consecutive nights of repurposed meals reduces time spent at meal planning. And I will scrape clean the ramekin that served my helping of homemade chicken pot pie.

For decades, a baked potato bar has greeted guests at our club's 4-H Parent Appreciation Dinner. I find it clever that our friend's family celebrates with a Thanksgiving-style dinner twice per year, with turkey and the fixings for the Fourth of July, too. And for my birthday, I request a dessert of Mom's homemade hot fudge with vanilla ice cream rather than cake. I otherwise enjoy sampling the plethora of holiday desserts available around a December birthday.

In my home kitchen and storage space, I stock packaged, canned and frozen foods like a squirrel. It remains a mission to maintain a consistent supply of ingredients for almost any favorite meal. That way, I stand prepared to make an ordinary day extra special.

About the Author: Joanie Stiers, a wife, mother and farm woman, preps home-cooked food from her kitchen in rural West-Central Illinois.

Ms. Aggie Visits Adopted Classrooms

While attending the IAA Annual Meeting in Chicago, Teresa Sanford-Shippelt, or better known as "Ms. Aggie," visited to Knox County Farm Bureau's adopted classrooms at St. Symphorosa preschool. She met with a pre-kindergarten class and as well as kindergarten class. Both classes talked about turkey as well as learned about all types of corn and corn products. Ms. Aggie was able to reach out to 43 students that morning and teach them about agriculture. It was a successful day!



St. Symphorosa kindergarteners also learned about turkeys and corn during Ms. Aggie's visit.

Ag In The Classroom Report

December was a busy month, I think even a little busier than last year. The more I am out in the classrooms the more I can share about agriculture and its relationship to each and every student out there. Mrs. Bowman and Ms. Aggie met with 108 classes and with 2,194 students! That is up from last year's total for December when alone Ms Aggie met with 77 classes and there is an increase of almost 700 students. What a difference two on the job can do!

The big discussion in December in Knox County was on trees. We did not just talk about Christmas trees but about all trees in general. We talked primarily about their structure, in simple terms: the trunk system (inner bark, outer bark, sapwood, cambium, & heartwood), the roots and their purpose (holding the tree in place, absorbing the water & minerals, holding the soil), and leaves as the food factory (photosynthesis and making oxygen). We looked at a "tree cookie", also known as a tree slice, and counted the rings to determine the age of the tree and in some cases built our own tree using students to demonstrate the various parts of the tree. We discussed the difference between deciduous and conifers or evergreens.

January is the month of the annual Farm Bureau Meeting (Jan 17th) and the Ag in the Classroom's annual fund-raiser. We have hosted two of the three AITC Classroom dinners this year and have had great reviews. We are hoping for some more great donations for both the silent auction and for the live auction. Many thanks to all those who have already donated items for the meeting!

We have also set our schedule for Ag

Day for Kids at CSC on February 20. We hope everyone that planned to be there last year is back on board for another fun filled year with the fourth grade students and their teachers. Let's hope the weather cooperates! We will be on the look out for some animal exhibits and guides for the classes. Hopefully that is where the FFA and 4-H kids will join us for the day as they have done in the past. We are hoping this February date will work out well.

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eMail Address: patrick.young@countryfinancial.com
Spouse: Kimberly
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Designations: CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER, Chartered Life Underwriter, Chartered Financial Consultant, Investment Solutions Representative
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Kids can learn about money at all ages

It's never too early to begin teaching kids about money. Teaching your children to be financially responsible at a young age can help them achieve financial security from childhood to retirement.

Children learn more about how to handle financial responsibility from their parents than from any other source, including schools. The best time to start discussing this topic is when children begin asking for new things.

Younger Children

Before children can learn about money, they must practice making choices. Children as young as 18 months can be taught they don't always get what they want. Teach your child to make decisions at a young age. The decision-making skills they learn will be applied to financial decisions later in life.

- Start young children with simple choices, such as "Would you like to use the green or the yellow crayon?"
- Move on quickly to three or four choices so that children learn to handle more than two. Most children four years of age can handle up to six choices.

Kindergarten to Second Grade

From kindergarten through second grade, children learn how to count and perform simple mathematical equations. This is a perfect age to start giving them a small amount of allowance and teach them financial responsibility.

- Choose an amount you feel comfortable with and pay it regularly.
- Let children see the results of their decisions. If your daughter spends all her money on candy the second day of the week, don't give her more money when she wants a new toy on the fourth day.

- Encourage children to divide their allowance into three equal categories. Make envelopes for immediate spending, charity and long-term savings. Only let them spend the long-term savings when it reaches a certain amount, such as \$10 or \$25.

Third to Fifth Grade

Since this age group may want more expensive toys, like in-line skates and video games, consider increasing the amount of their allowance.

- Teach this age group how to save for a goal. For example, if your son wants an expensive computer game encourage him to save for the game.
- Match their savings. If your child wants a new bike, tell him you will give him the same amount he saves. This encourages him to reach his goal and teaches him how to wait for what he wants.

Middle School Children

Your son or daughter might be starting to make extra money by babysitting, mowing lawns or shoveling snow.

- Open a savings account with your child so they can watch their money grow.
- Consider giving them a larger allowance. But if you do, also consider giving them the responsibility of buying their own clothes. This teaches them the value of money and they will learn to look for bargains.
- Explain how buying on credit works and how you get the most from the family's money. Ask your children to evaluate television and radio commercials and newspaper ads when the family is buying a higher ticket items such as new television or computer.

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BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Knox County Farm Bureau was held on Thursday, December 18, 2014

WOMENS COMMITTEE - Lori Engel

The Holiday dinner was on December 11 at Pizza House.

The Committee discussed new ideas to implement in 2015. The next meeting will be in January to go over the POW.

YOUNG FARMERS - Drew DeSutter

The Young Leaders Conference in Bloomington is on January 23-24. We would like to have 3 people attend from Knox County this year.

The committee would like to provide new programs and activities.

MEMBER RELATIONS TASK FORCE - Tom Hoben

The Membership report was reviewed.

GOVERNMENT & POLICY TASK FORCE - Beau Bewley

We met with Rep. Norine Hammond, Rep. Don Moffitt, Rep. John Sullivan and Rep. LaShawn Ford while at IAA Annual Meeting. Hammond, Moffitt and Ford were able to join us for our County Dinner on Monday to discuss our issues.

Our adopted legislator, Rep. LaShawn Ford, invited us to attend the House Inauguration.

If you have any suggestions for questions for the Viewpoint Survey please pass them along to Kate.

FARM BUSINESS TASK FORCE - David S. Erickson

We had 100 people at the Steve Johnson seminar on November 24 and over 150 people at the Farm Bill seminar on December 1.

EDUCATION TASK FORCE - Jarid Cain

We will be starting the monthly updates to our adopted 5th grade class in January. Kate has a schedule of who will be assigned to which month.

Jeff Link and AITC Coordinator Teresa Sanford sent information about corn and beans to a classroom in New York City.

PRIMETIMERS - Kate Lansaw

The Holiday Luncheon was on November 18 at the Packinghouse.

The next meeting will be on January 20 to plan their POW.

FOUNDATION - Kate Lansaw

Met on November 25. Raised the Internship Scholarship from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Applications for the internship and the scholarship are due on February 16, 2015.

KNOX AGRI-CENTER - Grant Strom

The Meritorious Award recipient was chosen and will be announced at the KCFB Annual Meeting on January 17.

ILLINOIS FARM FAMILIES - Lori Engel

We will be planning a DISH session at HyVee in January where moms can join us to prepare freezer meals to take home. While there, the committee will engage in conversation about where the food comes from and address any concerns brought up.

OLD BUSINESS

Drew DeSutter made it to the sweet 16 during the Young Leaders Discussion Meet at the IFB Annual Meeting. It was great Annual Meeting again.

NEW BUSINESS

Sam Serven presented the 2015 Budget. Discussed ways to encourage the Young Farmers to use budgeted funds.

St. Louis Science Center Agriculture Display was discussed. Illinois Farm Bureau will match county donation if \$1,000 or more. Discussion tabled to next meeting.

The KCFB Annual Meeting is January 17, 2015. Bill Hennenfent and David Bliss will be retiring from the Board. There will be four open seats on KCFB Board but two will be filled with the elections at the Annual Meeting. The list of 50 year KCFB members will be e-mailed. Mark Gebhards, IFB Governmental Affairs

and Commodities, is checking his availability to speak at KCFB annual meeting. The menu was discussed.

Kate reviewed the changes to be made to the KCFB Bylaws. There was a short discussion about the changes. These changes will be brought before the membership at the Annual Meeting in January.

KCFB Board Attendance 2014			
NAME	October	November	December
Bewley, Beau	C	P	P
Bliss, David	C	P	P
Boydston, Terry	C	P	P
Cain, Jarid	C	A	P
DeSutter, Drew	C	A	P
DeSutter, Jim	C	A	P
Engel, Lori	C	P	P
Erickson, David S	C	P	P
Hennenfent, Bill	C	P	P
Hoben, Tom	C	P	P
King, Becky	C	P	P
Link, Jeff	C	P	P
Link, Nathan	C	A	P
Main, Tim	C	P	P
Serven, Sam	C	P	P
Seiboldt, Pat	C	P	A
Stevens, Monica	C	P	P
Strom, Grant	C	P	P
Webel, Joe	C	A	P
West, Todd	C	P	P
(c) Cancelled			

New Member Benefit Offers Peace of Mind for Members

Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) members can now rest a little easier, knowing their loved ones are protected in their own homes, with just the push of a button. Peace of Mind Alert is a new member benefit for IFB, and includes one free month of monitoring and no activation fee.

Injuries resulting in falls is has long been a health problem for older adults. The National Safety Council estimates that persons over the age of 65 have the highest mortality rate from injuries from falls. In fact, falls account for about one-half of deaths due to injury in the elderly.


The Peace of Mind Alert system consists of three parts; the personal help button, master unit. And response center. The personal help button is available as a necklace or bracelet, and should be worn at all times by the member. When pressed, it activates the master unit, which conveniently plugs into any type of telephone connection in the home. The master unit immediately calls the response center and within seconds, a

trained care specialist will speak to the member over the base unit. Depending on the emergency, emergency medical service, police, fire, or friends and family will be notified of the situation.

Peace of Mind Alert master unit is waterproof (safe for the bathroom), compatible with all types of telephone connections, and has a range of 600 feet from the base unit – the longest on the market. Their 911 trained and certified care specialists are able to assist with medical emergencies, as well as equipment questions.

Melissa Rhode, IFB Membership and Program Director, said she is thrilled we can offer this life-saving service to our members. “We’ve never offered our members this type of benefit, so we’re happy to be reaching in a new direction, and at the same time provide such an important service with a special offer.”

For more information on this or other member benefits, contact your county Farm Bureau or visit ilfb.org and click on Member Benefits.



Peace Of Mind

Protects Your Loved Ones At Home, With Just The Push Of A Button

- 100% waterproof; essential as most falls of elderly occur in bathroom.
- Longest range from base unit on the market, 600 feet minimum.
- Only product that works with ALL phone lines: *Standard, DSL, Internet/Cable, and VOIP*
- Open 24/7, 365 days a year.

Members receive one free month of monitoring and no initial fee

NEW Member Benefit!

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Illinois Group Commends Cuba Breakthrough

The Illinois Cuba Working Group (ICWG) is pleased with President Barack Obama’s actions to improve trade and business relations with Cuba. ICWG also applauds the release of U.S. contractor Alan Gross, who has been held by the Cuban government since 2009. This is a major step forward. “This is a victory for U.S. businesses and also for the 11 million Cubans who can have a better quality of life because of potential increased trade between our two countries.” says Paul Johnson, ICWG executive director.

“We also feel this is the beginning of

opening up relations and improving financing that will allow Illinois businesses and agricultural products to reach Cuba,” says Duane Dahlman, Illinois Soybean Growers Marketing Committee Chair and soybean farmer from Marengo, Ill.

The ICWG believes that the improvement of economic trade relations between the U.S. and Cuba is the foundation for future success between the two countries. The development of the Cuban economy is as beneficial to Cuba as it is the U.S.

We encourage Congress to take the

next step and remove the embargo in 2015.

The President also is allowing expanded commercial sales and exports of goods and services to Cuba, including agricultural equipment for small farmers; allowing greater business training; and permitting greater communications hardware and services to go to the island. Other changes permit U.S. and Cuban banks to build relationships and travelers to use credit and debit cards.

The Illinois Cuba Working Group was formed at the request of the Illinois

General Assembly. The organization grew out of an initiative that began in 1999 when Illinois was the first state to travel to Cuba during the embargo. Through the collaboration of Illinois political, business and community support, Congress passed the Trade Sanctions and Reform Act in 2001. That act permitted the sale of agricultural products, and represented the first major effort to remove the embargo and barriers to normalized trade relations with Cuba. For details, visit illinoiscuba.org.

Nanotechnology Research Spurs Innovation in Illinois Agriculture

Illinois farmers may soon have an affordable solution to gauge moisture and soil nutrient levels across fields and measure grain composition. University of Illinois lab research and field tests, funded in part by the Illinois soybean checkoff, show the opportunity for low-cost micro sensors and grain analytics to become an everyday tool.

“This research is really groundbreaking and could address several challenges facing the soybean industry,” says Linda Kull, Ph.D., Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) director of strategic research programs. “The technology being developed in Illinois labs can provide opportunities to better understand soybean composition and nutrient input needs, and this may provide significant competitive advantages for Illinois farmers and for the soybean value chain.”

Monitoring moisture and nutrient levels in the soil could provide that increased understanding of inputs, according to Logan Liu, University of Illinois associate professor of electrical and computer engineering. Liu’s research aims to create micro sensors that can be placed throughout a field, allowing real-time measurement of moisture and nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen. “By applying this new technology, we can potentially reduce growers’ water and fertilization costs and at the same time help optimize their yields,” he explains.

While high-performance sensors already exist, they often are too expensive to be placed throughout a field, which limits information gathering. Liu’s low-cost micro sensors could bring this new computing technology to all soybean farmers.

High Science Brought to Use

Rohit Bhargava, University of Illinois professor of bioengineering, is focused on soybean composition. The livestock industry is the top consumer of Illinois soybeans, and its greatest demand is for high-protein soybean meal and amino acids. Bhargava seeks to create a portable instrument to measure nutrient composition, such as protein, directly in the field.

“Previous research shows the importance of high, consistent levels of protein and oil in soybeans, and this has helped set the standard at 19 percent oil and 35 percent protein,” says Kull. “Dr. Bhargava is taking our compositional understanding a step further by demonstrating the ability to measure these components with precise, immediate results directly in the field.”

Bhargava’s research focuses on Raman spectroscopy, a laser-based measurement that determines the amount of oil and protein in soybeans, down to the amino acid level. Relying on light, this method is nondestructive and delivers results instantly versus the traditional method of sending samples to a lab, crushing the beans to measure composition and waiting for results.

“Computers and lasers have become more advanced and more affordable,”

says Bhargava. “By combining these developments, we can create a high-performance instrument in a portable package that farmers can carry to the field and use themselves. It’s high science brought to use.”

Both research projects currently are in testing stages, and both researchers aim to have their new technologies packaged and ready for small-scale use within a year. To learn more about the advancements in University of Illinois research, visit instrumentation.illinois.edu.

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) represents more than 45,000 soybean farmers in Illinois through the state soybean checkoff and membership efforts. The checkoff funds market development, soybean production and profitability research, promotion, issues management and analysis, communications and education. Membership and advocacy efforts support Illinois soybean farmer interests in local areas, Springfield and Washington, D.C. ISA programs are designed to ensure Illinois soy is the highest quality, most dependable, sustainable and competitive in the global marketplace. For more information, visit the website www.ilsoy.org.

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This program is grant funded by the Illinois Green Economy Network - IGEN.
*according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
**according to “Ethanol Producer Magazine”

Biofuels Industry Growth:

- 218 ethanol plants currently in production in the U.S.**
- More than 11,000 workers employed in the biofuels industry*
- 3,700 additional workers needed over the next 10 years*

Wage Trends:

- \$26.03 Illinois median hourly salary in 2011 for a plant and system operators, with \$54,100 annual salary*
- \$25.58 national median hourly salary for a plant and system operators, with \$53,200 annual salary*



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Health on the Farm

By the Knox County Health Department



New Year's Resolutions

During this cold, snowy month many of us will venture down a well-traveled path paved with New Year's resolutions. It is covered with promises to exercise more, lose weight, stop smoking, and eat a healthier diet. The keys to making a successful resolution are a person's confidence that he or she can make the behavior change and the commitment to making that change.

The start of the New Year is a terrific time for smokers to implement their plan to quit. The benefits of a smoke-free lifestyle include improved overall health, economic benefits, and protecting loved ones from harmful secondhand smoke.

How can you set yourself up for success?

Planning ahead can greatly improve your likelihood of quitting for good. Try these proven tips and resources that have helped thousands of people pack in smoking permanently:

1. See Support:

You don't have to quit alone. Ask family, friends, and co-workers for their help and support. Having someone to take a walk with you, or just listen, can give a needed boost.

2. Take time to plan:

Designate a day to quit on the calendar and stick to it. Avoid peak times of stress, such as holidays, and gather in advance the tools and medications you will need.

3. Exercise Daily:

Exercise is proven to help smokers

quit. Not only that, it will also combat weight gain and improve mood and energy levels. Walking is a great way to reduce the stress of quitting.

4. Prioritize Nutrition and Sleep:

Eat a balanced diet, drink lots of water, and be sure to get plenty of sleep.

5. Talk to Your Doctor or Pharmacist:

They can discuss with you the various over-the-counter or prescription medications available to help you quit.

For help quitting please call the Illinois Tobacco Quitline at 1-866-Quit-Yes (1-866-784-8937), a toll-free number to access quit smoking support, or visit the www.quityes.org website, which provides free quitting information. Knox County residents who call the Quitline may be eligible to obtain FREE nicotine replacement patches

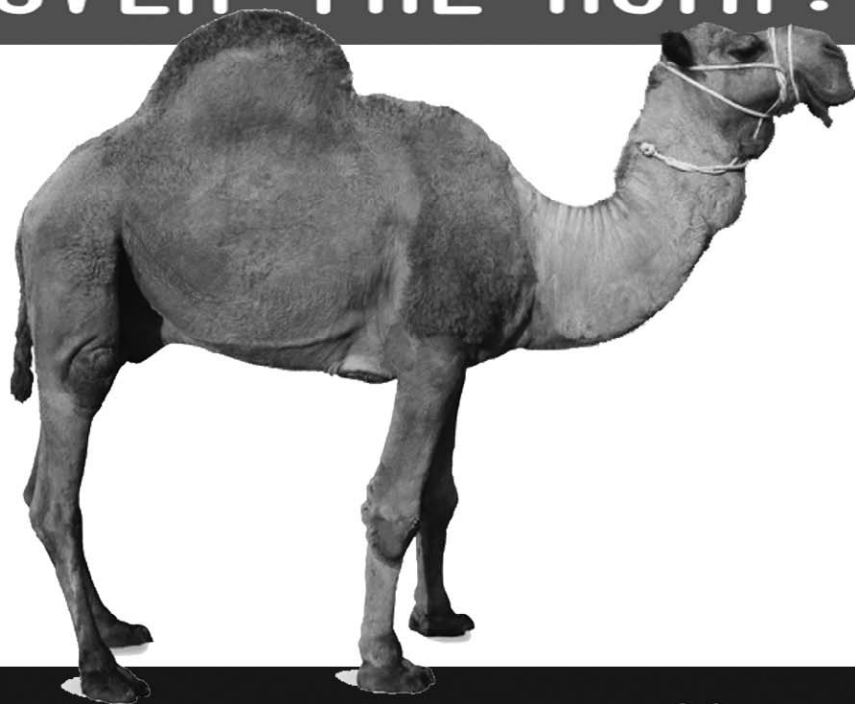
For more information please call the Knox County Health Department at 344-2224. Take enough steps and you will reach any goal. Resolve to make a few small resolutions like "eating right" and giving up smoking this year and just watch how far you will go!



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MEMBERSHIP RECRUITERS OF THE MONTH



Jeremy Kleine



Travis Lewis

The Knox County Farm Bureau would like to recognize COUNTRY Financial Representatives Jeremy Kleine & Travis Lewis as top membership recruiters. Jeremy & Travis each signed two new associate members in December.

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

PRIMETIMERS NEWS

The PrimeTimers Committee did not meet in December. The next meeting will be on January 20th at the Knox Agri Center and

the committee will plan for the upcoming year. The PrimeTimers invite those 55+ to attend!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Slow-Cooker Coffee-Braised Brisket With Potatoes & Carrots

Ingredients

- 1 medium onion, peeled and quartered, stem end left intact
- 1 pound new potatoes (about 12)
- 1 pound medium carrots, cut into 2 1/2-inch lengths
- 2 1/2 pounds beef brisket, trimmed
- kosher salt and black pepper
- 1 6-ounce can tomato paste
- 1 cup brewed black coffee
- 3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

Cooking Directions

1. In the bottom of a 5- to 6-quart slow cooker, combine the onion, potatoes, and carrots. Season the beef with 1 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper and place on top of the vegetables.
 2. In a small bowl, whisk together the tomato paste, coffee, Worcestershire sauce, and brown sugar; pour over the beef and vegetables. Cover and cook on low until the beef and vegetables are tender, 8 to 9 hours.
 3. Slice the beef across the grain and serve with the vegetables and sauce, sprinkled with the parsley.
- 4 servings (2 kabobs each)



New Benefit Helps Members Save on Off-road Vehicles

What's better than a new off-road vehicle? How about some extra savings! Now you can have both with your new member discount with Polaris.

Illinois Farm Bureau has teamed up with the leading manufacturer of off-road vehicles to offer members special savings on their products.

According to Melissa Rhode, IFB membership and program director, "By teaming up with Polaris, our members save money on high-quality, all-terrain vehicles that can stand up to rugged farm use. The Polaris program provides yet another example of how it pays to be a Farm Bureau member."

Through the new program, eligible Farm Bureau members receive a \$300 per unit discount on all Polaris utility and sport vehicles, \$200 per unit on all all-terrain vehicles and \$300 per unit on all GEM electric vehicles. Members are eligible for the discounts 30 days after joining Illinois Farm Bureau.

To take advantage of the Polaris program discounts, go to ilfb.org/member, and click on "Farm Values," then "Polaris." This will link you to a page where you can enter your membership number and zip code. A certificate will be made available online that must be printed and taken to the dealership of choice for presentation to the sales person. Certificates expire after 60 days.

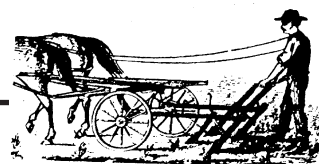
Polaris designs, engineers, manufactures and markets innovative, high quality off-road vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles and the Polaris RANGER and RZR side-by-side vehicles, snowmobiles, motorcycles and on-road electric/hybrid powered vehicles. Information about the complete line of Polaris products, apparel and vehicle accessories are available from authorized Polaris dealers or anytime at www.polaris.com.

To learn more about the benefits of being an Illinois Farm Bureau member, go to www.ilfb.org/member.

KCFB Membership Dues Notice

The Knox County Farm Bureau®, the Illinois Farm Bureau® and COUNTRY Financial® have worked together to make it easier for Associate members who are also COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company® or COUNTRY Preferred Insurance Company® customers to pay their membership dues. Beginning February 1, 2015, your annual county/Illinois Farm Bureau membership dues will be included with your insurance premium in one billing for most personal lines policies. From then on, you will only need to make one easy payment to COUNTRY Financial and we'll take care of the rest!

Looking Back



TAKEN FROM THE JANUARY 1936 BULLETIN

The December 15th report from the Illinois Farm Supply Company shows Knox County to be the only service company in the Rough Rider group of 15 counties that has signed 100% of their quota.

TAKEN FROM THE JANUARY 1954 BULLETIN

We completed the 16th consecutive year of the soybean variety test plot on the Harold Moore farm near Wataga. The three top varieties again were Adams, Lincoln, and Hawkeye.

TAKEN FROM THE JANUARY 1988 BULLETIN

Seventeen of Knox County Farm Bureau Young Farmers gathered together on December 10 at the Farm Bureau to share fellowship and reminisce the past year's activities. The celebration was the annual Christmas potluck dinner and gift exchange, and as usual, the enthusiasm was high.

CLASSIFIEDS

To place ads in the Bulletin or on the website, you must be a Knox County Farm Bureau member. Call 309-342-2036 or e-mail us at jreedy@knoxcfb.org by the last Friday of each month to place the ad.

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP OFFERED: to assist in marketing a newly developed hydraulic suspension device for positioning massive delicate loads in the power engineering field. A much needed tool in the strategic service and setting of gas power turbines for cost-effective conversion of fuel to electricity. Tremendous financial reward for investment. Phone 309-375-5260 for discussion. 1/15

FOR SALE: Model 200E 20 ga-3"chamber custom crafted for Ithaca by SKBJapan, perfect for upland, 25" double barrel collectors side by side heavily engraved, recoil pad & trigger lock, perfect condition & case. Misc. shells, accessories, & cleaning equipment. All hunting clothing, 2 pairs pants, 3 orange jackets & hoody, 3 pairs of boots, 2 gun racks. All for \$1,000. Owner failing. Call 309-375-5260. 1/15

FOR SALE: Full line of very good and clean John Deere farm equipment. 9570 STS Combine 870/667 hrs, 8 row head & 25 ft. platform, 8130 front wheel assist tractor w/2, 100 hrs, 1770CCS 16-Row planter, J&M 1,000 bu. grain cart, 980 field cult., 750 bushel wagons. Call Ron 309-368-8385 and see photos on www.ronladuke.com 1/15

FOR RENT: 3 bedroom condo at Four Seasons Racquet & Country Club, June 28-July 5, 2015 in Lake of the Ozarks. \$850. Call Ken Walker 309-230-7227.1/15

FOR SALE: Low vision eye machine. Call 309-368-3539 12/14

WANTED: Scrap farm machinery, iron piles, junk cars and trucks. Call 309-525-1559 12/14

FOR SALE: 16 ft. enclosed feeder bunk, located at 1572 County Road 7. Best offer. Call (309) 342-6326 12/14

FOR SALE: 2 story, full basement, 2 car detached garage, handy-man's special, Priced to sell, As is, No Warranty House. 309-299-3572 11/11

FOR SALE: 25 Large, white geese, 2-3 years old, not for eating. Call 309-335-1316. 11/14

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



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Passage Of Tax Extenders Bill

The following is a statement from the Illinois Farm Bureau President Richard Guebert, Jr., regarding the passage of H.R. 5771, the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014.

"We're extremely pleased to see the passage of this tax extenders bill. The bill, which includes a one-year, retroactive extension of the Section 179 small business expensing option at the \$500,000 level, provides Illinois farmers and other small businesses an incentive to invest in their operations and will help them to manage their purchases, cash flow and income.

"The one-year extensions of 50 percent bonus depreciation deductions for charitable donations of food and conservation easements, as well as production tax credits for biodiesel, cellulosic ethanol and wind energy are critically important to agriculture and the U.S. economy in general.

"We would like to thank our representatives for their support of this bill, and we urge President Obama to sign the bill into law."



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