



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.



AUGUST 2025 No. 8
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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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



FFA blue jacket delivers lifetime impact

I have an FFA sticker on my phone, an "FFA Bed" in our loft and the beat of blue and gold in my heart. My son quickly points out my FFA Mom t-shirt as an example of my FFA fascination, but I also own a navy blazer with gold blouse and FFA lapel pin.

I love FFA, and I'm proud to show it.

FFA done well transforms lives. Likewise, agriculture programs with good teachers bring notice to the often-unnoticed teens. Immeasurable satisfaction swells within me and every one of our passionate volunteers who witness this national youth organization use agriculture as the avenue to develop young leaders, spark career interests, connect classroom learning to competitions, and provide conference and convention opportu-

nities unlike any other school organization. FFA is our family's sport, a competitive and disciplined organization with its own uniform. It is uniquely inter-curricular not extra-curricular as FFA weaves into agricultural education curriculum at the 7-12 grade level. Often, membership generates an incredible everlasting loyalty, adoration and allegiance that keeps the signature corduroy jackets in our closets decades past wearing them.

Through my two kids, our chapter's members and our FFA Alumni group, I'm gaining more from the blue jacket today than when I wore it. Our son leads quietly, a servant leader with a stellar record book in his passion for ag mechanics. My daughter just finished her term as the first major state officer in 60 years from our tiny school's FFA Chapter.

The high-profile privilege came with responsibility, never complacency. She deferred college for a year to serve and travel more than 20,000 miles in-state to advocate for agriculture, vocational education and FFA. She commonly worked 60-hour weeks,

sometimes more, with her teammates. They led thousands of students at workshops and conferences with record-breaking attendance. The team traveled to D.C. twice in 12 months and conversed with nearly 30 legislators representing Illinois. Each state officer visited almost 100 high schools in the fall alone and delivered more than 25 speeches across the term.

Our daughter found inspiration in the people she met, was challenged by the demands of leadership and humbly accepted the constant requirement to perform in public and leave an impact. Through exhaustion, challenge, triumph, criticism and praise, she grew more personally and professionally in the last 12 months than I will in my lifetime.

I took photos or videos almost every weekend when the FFA-wrapped Bronco she drove during the term left our driveway. Eventually, I'll hang a photo of it near our "FFA Bed," a spare queen topped with navy linens and gold throw pillows to accommodate FFA state officer guests.

My drive to support FFA will never rest.

Getting To Know Your Farm Bureau Policy

123. TRANSPORTATION

We support:

- 1. Development of a long-range national transportation policy.
- 2. A system serving the needs of both passengers and freight across the country.
- 3. Exploration of public-private partnerships.
- 4. Developing economical and energy efficient methods of meeting future transportation needs and global competitiveness.

Land Use

We support:

- 1. Regulations which:
 - A. Provide improved noxious weed and brush control by state and local road authorities on the full width of highway rights-of-way.
 - B. Maintain safe levels of visibility.
 - C. Protect farmers' crops from unwarranted or careless spraying.
 - D. Ensure that ditch and roadside vegetation maintenance practices do not impair drainage to or from adjoining farm fields.
 - E. Preserve vegetative cover adequate to prevent soil erosion on roadsides and in ditches.
- 2. Enforcement of noxious weed and brush control by railroad authorities on railroad rights of-way, including the use of a soil conserving cover crop whether the railroad is in operation or abandoned.
- 3. Giving counties the power to levy a

fine of \$500 per acre of railroad rights-of-way where noxious weeds are not eradicated or controlled.

4. Enforcement of drainage laws and regulations on railroad rights-of-way.

5. Oversight of railroad construction projects and design standards by appropriate government agencies to minimize disturbance to adjoining farmland and farming operations and to adequately protect or repair drainage and drainage systems.

6. Efforts to ensure that highway construction and improvement projects do not cause serious, adverse impact to drainage nor cause erosion on adjacent land.

7. Utilization of marginal farmland or poorer grades of land for new railroad or highway construction projects where feasible in order to preserve tillable farmland.

8. Utilization of existing rights-of-way for new highways to the maximum extent feasible in order to minimize acquisition of new lands for highway purposes.

9. Equitable compensation to landowners for disruption of farming operations by highway construction.

Other

We support:

- 1. Efficient mass transportation. We will support legislation or regulations to allow disconnection of counties by referendum from mass transportation authorities.
- 2. Use of biodiesel and ethanol by mass transit systems.
- 3. Efforts to streamline the transporta-

tion project delivery process to reduce unnecessary time delays including:

- A. Simplifying the environmental process for projects with few impacts.
- B. Involving appropriate reviewing agencies early in the process to help expedite overall project schedules.
- C. Requiring greater coordination among federal reviewing agencies and setting time limits for their review.
- D. Use of the Design-Build project delivery method or other innovative construction strategies.

4. Efforts to educate policy makers and the public to ensure they understand:

- A. The value and necessity of efficient and effective transportation infrastructure.
- B. The complexity and cost of both long-term maintenance and expansion of transportation infrastructure to meet future needs.
- C. The importance of interconnectivity between modes.
- D. Requiring construction projects to be completed as timely and safely as possible, minimizing impacts on the traveling public.

5. The removal of concrete bridges on township roads with less than 20 feet clearance widths and banister heights taller than 18 inches from the register of historic places so they can be replaced with a new bridge that allows modern farm implements to easily pass over them.

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1 Available on the purchase or lease of a new eligible new 2024/2025/2026 model year Ford® Mustang®, Ranger®, F-150 Super Duty® or F-150 Lightning®. Not available on any other Ford or Lincoln vehicles, or F-150 Raptor®, F-150 Raptor R™, Ranger Raptor® or F-650® and F-750® Super Duty Vehicle eligibility may change at any time. Available to U.S. residents only. Place a new order or place a new order or take new order from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by 10/25/24. Limit of five purchases or leases per household during the program offer (FMS 32376). Due to high demand and global supply constraints, some models, trims, and features may not be available or may be subject to change. Check with your local Ford Dealer for current information. Offer subject to confirmation of eligibility.

2 Available on the purchase or lease of a new eligible 2024/2025/2026 Ford F-150 Super Duty, Ford F-150 Lightning, Ford F-150 Raptor, Ford F-150 Raptor R, Ford Ranger, Ford F-650, Ford F-750 Super Duty, Ford F-150 Super Duty, Ford F-150 Lightning, Ford F-150 Raptor, Ford F-150 Raptor R, Ford Ranger, Ford F-650, Ford F-750 Super Duty. Vehicle eligibility may change at any time. Available to U.S. residents only. Take delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by 10/25/24. Limit of five purchases per household during the program offer (FMS 32376). Due to high demand and global supply constraints, some models, trims, and features may not be available or may be subject to change. Check with your local Ford Dealer for current information. Offer subject to confirmation of eligibility.

KCFB Board Attendance 2025

	May	June	July
Beard, Jennifer	A	P	P
Bollivar, Jason	P	P	P
Courson, Dustin	P	P	P
DeSutter, Drew	P	P	P
Eagle, Tim	P	P	P
Emken, Kurt	P	A	P
Emmons, Rob	A	A	A
Engel, Lori	P	P	P
Erickson, Dan	P	P	P
Erickson, Michelle	A	P	P
Goedeke, Phil	P	P	A
Grady, Jeff	A	P	P
Hall, Brandon	P	A	P
Link, Aaron	P	P	P
Link, Cory	A	A	P
Main, Jason	P	A	P
McCormick, Joel	P	P	P
Nelson, Brian	P	A	P
Underwood, Kyle	A	P	P

- (P) Present
- (A) Absent
- (C) Cancelled
- (V) Virtual

July KCFB Board Highlights

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Knox County Farm Bureau was held on July 17.

Education & Outreach – Michelle Erickson

T-Shirts will be distributed at the Horse Show on July 6 and Weigh-In on July 13. Ice Cream Social will be held with the 4-H Alumni Show on July 14. KCFB is hosting an American Flag Retirement Drive July 1 – August 15. Members can bring in American flags that are no longer able to be flown. The Knoxville American Legion will properly retire them.

Farm Business – Brian Nelson

2022 Plat Books are available at the office. They are on sale for \$15 for members. A 2026 Plat Book will be completed in 2025 and be for sale on December 1, 2025. Ads will be available to any business after June 27. Steve Johnson was held at the Knox Agri Center on June 17. A Fire Extinguisher Check Program will be held again on July 29 from 1PM-4PM at the Agri Center with ABC Fire.

Government and Policy – Kyle Underwood

We may be connecting with a new Adopted Legislator soon.

Member Relations – Joel McCormick

The 2025 Quota Program is threefold: Engagement- submit programs in all 8 CAE Categories; Retention-Knox County needs 771 MM/PM members by July 31, 2025; Growth- Achieve a 3+ gain of MM/PM Members – Knox County needs 842 members. T-shirts will be distributed at the Horse Fair on July 6 and Weigh-In on July 13. Pork Spice is available for sale in the office. \$15 for members.

Young Farmers – Brandon Hall

Young Farmers met on May 28. An update was provided on the Nutrient Stewardship Grant. A booklet is being compiled of all the soil sampling results with information on each township. A cover crop seed assistance program has been announced in the June Bulletin with signups starting on June 16 on the website or by calling the office. KCFB members who purchase cover crop seed from West Central FS from July 1- August 1 are eligible for a \$250 incentive. The 4-H & FFA Tractor & Lawnmower Safety School & Driving Contest has been renamed the Tractor & Mower Safety Challenge and was held on June 30 at 6PM at the Knox County Fairgrounds. Over 20 kids participated. In the tractor driving contest, John Moffitt received 1st and Vince Alfrey was 2nd. In the mower driving contest, Madison Lewis got 1st and Conner Cameron was 2nd. After the Tractor & Mower Safety Challenge, Young

Farmers will host their June/July meeting. Young Farmers will be hosting a social recruitment night on July 28 at 5PM at Oak Run. Dinner will be catered at 6PM. All members or non-members 18-35 are invited to attend. A sign-up will be available soon on the website. A Hunter Safety Course will be held on August 22-23 at the Knox County Farm Bureau. Registration will go live on June 25 at Noon. The Knox County Chapter of Pheasants Forever is co-sponsoring the event.

PrimeTimers – Hailey Hennenfent

The PrimeTimers met on June 17 with a potluck and presentation from a representative of the Gordon Behrent's Senior Center. There is no PrimeTimers in July. PrimeTimers is always looking for new members, 55+.

Foundation – Hailey Hennenfent

The Agriculture in the Community Grant will be available again in 2025 with applications open quarterly. The next quarter's applications are due August 1. The next KCFB Foundation Meeting is on August 26.

KAC – Hailey Hennenfent

The next Knox Agri Center Board Meeting is on August 26.

OLD BUSINESS

Two vacancies remain on the KCFB Board of Directors in District 2 and 3. The Sheriff food tickets at the Knox County Fair were very popular.

NEW BUSINESS

The Fields Church lease is expiring September 30, 2025.

Meet Knox County Farm Bureau Board Member Dustin Courson!

Dustin has been on the Board of Directors since 2021. Learn more about Dustin here:

Tell us a little bit about you and your family. I was born and raised on my family's dairy farm just north of Williamsfield, Illinois, and agriculture has always been woven into my daily life. Today I live in Williamsfield on the farm with my significant other, Kelly, and our energetic Australian Cattle Dog, Bella. After earning a bachelor's degree in accounting from Western Illinois University, I blended my passion for numbers with my farming roots by founding Courson & Associates, LLC—a public accounting firm based in Galesburg, Illinois. When I'm not advising clients, you'll find me working the land, tending roughly 600 acres of corn and soybeans right here in Williamsfield.

Where are you from? Williamsfield, IL

What do you love most about agriculture? What I love most about agriculture is the privilege of being a caretaker of the land—constantly striving to build healthier, more productive soil so the next generation inherits something better. I also thrive on the continual cycle of discovery: researching emerging practices, testing fresh ideas in the field, and knowing the learning never truly ends. Each season is a new opportunity to experiment, adapt, and improve. This blend of stewardship and lifelong curiosity is what makes agriculture so rewarding to me.

Why did you join the Knox County Farm Bureau? I joined the Knox County Farm Bureau after a neighbor encour-



Dustin Courson

aged me to get involved. Their invitation made me realize that my diverse background in both agriculture and accounting could genuinely add value to the organization—from understanding the day-to-day challenges of farming to navigating the financial and regulatory realities producers face.

Favorite part of being on the Board of Directors? The opportunity to interact with fellow board members and continually learn from their diverse experiences and perspectives.

What are your hobbies and interests? Hunting, fishing, hiking, and woodworking.

What is something people might not know about you? I've been farming longer than I've been an accountant.



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From L-R: 1 St Place, Madison Lewis, 2nd Place, Connor Cameron



From L-R: 2nd Place, Vincent Alfrey, 1st Place, John Moffitt

Young Farmers Tractor & Mower Safety Challenge

A little rain didn't stop the Tractor & Mower Safety Challenge on June 30th. Over 20 participants learned about tractor and mower safety before trying their hand at a driving contest. For some of the kids, it was their first time on a mower. Thanks to the Knox County Fairgrounds for letting us use their facilities for this event, Birkey's Farm Store in Galesburg for supplying the mower and tractor, and to the Knox County Cattlemen's Association for grilling hamburgers and hot dogs for supper on their brand new grill!



4-H Fair Ice Cream Social

What a great time serving Prairie Farms Dairy ice cream before the Knox County 4-H Alumni Showmanship Show on July 14th! Over \$9,000 was raised through the event for the Knox County 4-H Foundation. We even had a special guest join us to help the Board of Directors serve vanilla ice cream and all the toppings - Senator Neil Anderson!



Health on the Farm

By the Knox County Health Department

Knox Community Health Center Celebrates National Health Center Week

America's Health Centers Celebrating 60 Years of Improving Our Nation's Health

The Knox Community Health Center (KCHC) celebrated National Health Center Week (NHCW) 2025 August 3-9. The annual event highlights the essential role Community Health Centers (CHCs) play in improving public health and providing Americans equal opportunity to access critical healthcare services. CHCs represent the nation's largest primary care network, serving 32.5 million patients nationwide.

Located at 1361 W. Fremont St. in Galesburg, KCHC offers medical, dental, and behavioral health services. The center is open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 309-344-2225.

The KCHC medical team is led by Robert Wagner, MD, who has 59 years of experience and is dedicated to delivering top-quality care to patients of all ages. The health center offers same-day medical appointments and accepts walk-ins for acute illnesses.

Addressing the need for better access to mental health care, the Knox Community Health Center welcomed Benjamin Clark, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner – Board Certified (PMHNP-BC), to its roster in 2024. The role of the PMHNP-BC is to assess, diagnose and provide treatment for mental health needs. Clark is accepting new patients and does not require a referral to make an appointment.

The Knox Community Health Center provides comprehensive healthcare services to patients regardless of income or insurance status. KCHC accepts a wide range of insurance plans including most private insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid (including MCO's). For uninsured or underinsured patients, the Knox Community Health Center offers a sliding fee scale based on household income. Additionally, eligible KCHC patients can participate in the 340b prescription drug program to obtain affordable medications.

KCHC also employs certified health insurance Navigators to assist the community with applying for Marketplace health insurance and Medicaid at no cost to the applicant. Currently Marketplace health insurance is in Special Enrollment Period for those with a life changing event that caused them to lose their health insurance in the past 60 days. Open Enrollment begins November 1st.

This year's NHCW celebration, launched by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), focused on the theme: "America's Health Centers Celebrating 60 Years of Improving our Nation's Health." To commemorate NHCW, KCHC attended several community events including National Night Out, Feed My Lambs Back-to-School Picnic and the NAACP Community Cookout. Chief Operations Officer Reina Reyes and Director of Operations Staci Simpson taped an episode of WGIL's Galesburg In Focus discussing National Health Center Week and the services offered by KCHC. The Knox Community Health Center also hosted a day of free blood pressure checks and provided information on managing chronic illnesses such as high blood pressure and diabetes. The Knox Community Health Center also celebrated its patients throughout the week, and our employees celebrated with a luncheon on Friday, August 8th. Our Governance Board was recognized at its Thursday, August 14th meeting.

With a mission to make high-quality, affordable care available to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay or insurance status, CHCs save lives and healthcare costs on the front lines of our nation's most pressing public health challenges. They are powered by a workforce of over 310,000 dedicated professionals who reach beyond the walls of the exam room with effective services that not only prevent illness but also address the factors that may cause it.

The Knox Community Health Center can provide care for your entire family with medical, dental, and behavioral health services all under one roof. Providers at KCHC have treated 2,551 patients so far this year, completing 6,603 appointments. We will see you today!



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7:10



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FRI, Feb 7 at 1:17 PM

(West Central FS, Inc.) Stop by and see WCFS this weekend at the WIU Ag Mech Farm Expo in Macon, IL! Show is open Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 10-4. STOP to end

Thursday 2:10 PM

(West Central FS, Inc.) Introducing The CLIPS device! An innovative dry powder application system for use with Indigo Ag biotriatic flowable powder seed coating application. A few benefits include: Improved Application Window, Eliminates Several Steps, Reduces Exposure, and Supports an even coating for best application results. Talk to your WCFS Crop Specialist for more info! STOP to end

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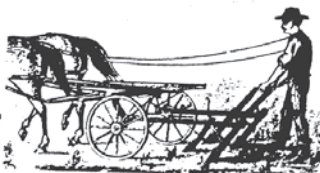
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Looking Back



August 1970



Mark Johnson, left, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Johnson, Altona, and Janet Thompson, whose parents are Mr. and Mrs. James A Thompson, R.R. 2, Galesburg, prepare their livestock for showing in new 4-H Exhibit Building.

PrimeTimers News

PrimeTimers did not meet in July. The next meeting will be August 19 at noon with Knox County Ag in the Classroom presenting. Please call the office to be added to the mailing list if you would like to join. Members 55 and older are welcome to join!

Recipe of the Month Baked Club Sliders

Ingredients

- 24 Hawaiian rolls or slider buns
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 2 pounds thin sliced turkey
- 2 pounds thin sliced ham
- 14 slices bacon
- 12 slices provolone cheese cut int half
- 1 cup butter
- 3 tablespoons spicy brown mustard
- 2 teaspoons onion powder
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- ½ teaspoon granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon poppy seeds



Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grab a 9-inch x 13-inch pan and an 8-inch x 8-inch pan OR an oversized baking dish for these sliders.
2. Cook bacon on the stovetop or in the oven.
3. Slice rolls in half to create a set of tops and bottoms. Place bottom halves into pans and spread with mayo.
4. Layer bottom buns with turkey, ham, bacon (breaking it into pieces to fit as needed), and then half slices of cheese. Each layer should cover the previous layer edge to edge. Place top buns over the filling.
5. In a medium bowl, melt butter. Mix in mustard, onion powder, Worcestershire sauce, sugar, and poppy seeds. Brush butter mixture over the rolls or pour it evenly all over the top.
6. At this point, you can get baking OR cover sandwiches with plastic wrap and store them in the fridge until ready to serve.
7. Bake sliders for 15-18 minutes until cheese is melted and rolls are golden on top.
8. Remove from oven and let cool for 5 minutes before cutting into individual sliders. Serve warm

~ CLASSIFIED ADS ~

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

FOR SALE: Three David White Realist transit items: Meridian 8820 level in hard plastic case, with owner's guide. 9031-610 tripod, approx. 5' tall. 7611-902 wood rod, 9 ½ feet long in 2 sections. Originally purchased from Ken Co., Galesburg in the late 1970s. All for \$200. Please call and leave a message, 309.368.5162.

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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