

Knox County Farm Bureau®

Bulletin



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

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April 2023



KCFB Host Legislative Luncheon

On March 13, KCFB hosted the annual Legislative Luncheon at the Packinghouse. County Board members Brian Friedrich and Bob Bondi attended along with Representatives Travis Weaver, Dan Swanson and Norine Hammond as well as Senators Mike Halpin and Neil Anderson. Board members were able to hear updates from Knox County and Springfield and ask questions and voice concerns.



Young Farmers Host FFA Acquaintance Night

On March 21, over 40 FFA students joined the KCFB Young Farmers for the FFA Acquaintance Night at Beaver's Teeth in Knoxville for axe throwing. All FFA Chapters in Knox County attended; Williamsfield, Galesburg, Abingdon-Avon, Knoxville, and ROWVA. FFA members learned more about Farm Bureau and were able to meet Young Farmer members. Attending this event also allowed chapters to become eligible for sponsorships to the FFA BUILD Conference. Big thanks to West Central FS for sponsoring the night!

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**
The Knox County
Farm Bureau would like
to welcome the
following to our organization

- Mark & Lori Chezem
- Avery Dean
- Tyler Dykeman
- Daniel Hite
- Derrick & Ashley Main
- Rosemary O'Daniel
- Ronda Sward
- Daniel Thurman
- Amanda Trimble
- Lacey Pease
- RP Electronics, LLC
- Sharon Sholl
- Dorothy Skinner
- Lewis & Deborah Chillot
- Christine & Darren Sharp



Thank you to
everyone who
volunteered their
time for Spring
Clean-Up Day at the
Knox Agri Center!

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.



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Thank You
KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU



Farmers adapt to weather

"We have always been able to plant," I reassured Mom while seated at my desk that faces hers. We should have been seated in a tractor. The season was spring and the year 2019, when it rained.

And rained.
And rained.

I took screenshots of weather forecasts, showing seven days of clouds and rain. It seemed unbelievable, and mentally, an out-of-body experience that endured. By May 30 of that year (past our typical planting season), we had 80% of our acres yet to plant and had dumped 10-plus inches from the rain gauge. The guys used the rainy

days to start maintenance on harvest machinery. They had faith that we would have a crop to harvest.

For generations, farmers have endured weather stresses that impact farm production and livelihoods, and they can name those most-adverse years like sports statistics. Thankfully, technology and modern research give us an adaptive edge, building resilience in the face of weather variability.

Our planters hold more seed in one fill than Grandpa could plant in a single day in the 1970s. Bigger and faster planters plant crops quicker and more precisely, necessary with larger farm sizes today. Smartphones show live subscription weather forecasts and field-specific precipitation totals. Tile drainage systems improve water management within fields.

Data shows that over time weather comes with greater variability and extremes from cold to hot and dry to wet. Since 1980, the number of days it has rained more than

two inches has doubled in Illinois, a statistic cited in a docuseries at WatchUsGrow.org. More rain in a shorter time can trigger crop losses and soil erosion, but farmers have adjusted to protect crops and the environment.

More than ever on our farm and farms across the state, farmers use cover crops, or groundcover between primary crops. They install grass filter strips along streams and use reduced tillage practices to slow and filter water flowing across the land.

When the weather finally cooperated in June 2019, we had a full crew and machines ready to act. The air conditioning stopped working in a tractor, but my brother sweated it out. We planted four times more acres in a day than in the prime of Grandpa's career and dutifully planted every acre we could.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family, growing corn, soybeans, wheat and hay and raising beef cattle and backyard chickens in West-Central Illinois.

Getting To Know Your Farm Bureau Policy

39. GOVERNMENTAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND OWNERSHIP

We support legislation:

1. Preventing any involuntary net loss of private property ownership in any state. All future forced acquisition or sanctioning of property by federal, state, or local government agencies except by universities for agricultural research must be balanced by disbursement or sales of property of equivalent value from government inventories within the state.

2. To prohibit additional purchases of real estate for recreational or preservation purposes by any level of government unless the property remains on local tax rolls at the prevailing tax rates and prevailing assessed value of similar local properties.

3. Providing for a method of compensating units of local government by the state or federal government where the amount of land taken by the state or federal government severely reduces property tax revenues or where the demand for local services related to the state or federal-owned or managed property is substantially increased.

4. Requiring governmental units maintaining highways, parks or other areas which increase road use or require added police or fire protection or other emergency services to compensate the appropriate local bodies maintaining those roads or providing such services.

5. Providing for a hearing and a referendum of registered voters in the county or counties in which land is sought by a local governmental unit for recreational, forest or conservation purposes. Existing public lands should be developed for the purpose for which it was purchased before additional property is acquired.

6. Providing that agricultural land owned by local governmental units may be rented for agricultural purposes until developed.

7. To ensure that those government-owned lands, which are commercially farmed and produce a cash crop, should not be farmed by government, but instead are leased to farmers with the exception of those used for agricultural research.

8. Requiring the governmental unit to offer land for resale to the previous owner or their heirs at the lower of the original purchase price or current market value if the property acquired by an agency will not be used for the original purpose for which it was acquired or to adjacent

landowners if the original landowner or their heirs do not exercise the right to purchase. If the original or adjacent landowner does not exercise the right to purchase within one year of the offer to sell, then the governmental unit should be allowed to sell such property to other interested parties. We support a sunset time limit of ten years for the property to be used as intended or the buy-back provisions go into effect.

9. Providing that on land owned by the State or local taxing authority where benefits from barter or income are received from such land, a portion of this income or exchange will be returned to the county in which the land is located in lieu of taxes.

10. Requiring units of government acquiring railroad right-of-way property (i.e., for trails) to follow the same provisions for fencing and farm crossings as the railroad was required to follow.

11. Requiring public bodies making acquisition of property for public purposes to make financial settlement within 60 days of the date that the purchase price is determined or be required to pay the property owner the prime interest rate plus 2 percent interest per year on the purchase price until final settlement is made.

12. To limit state and federal agencies in their purchase of additional recreational or wildlife habitat until existing sites, other than farmland, are developed and maintained for the purpose for which they were intended.

13. That would require governmental agencies to document the impact on agriculture of any infrastructure projects, show whether that impact is justified, and if so, take all reasonable steps to reduce or eliminate any negative impact.

14. That clearly defines scenic easements, establishes parameters on the use of such easements, and restricts the ability of the government to use federal highway funds to purchase scenic easements.

We oppose:

1. Any effort to establish buffer areas around parks, preserves, or other areas being protected for their environmental or ecological value without just compensation to affected landowners.

2. The formation of any state or federal wildlife refuges, recreational or conservation areas until such time as the boundaries of such projects are clearly defined and the property targeted for ac-

quisition is clearly identified.

3. The creation or expansion of local, state, and federal refuges, recreational or conservation areas when the aggregate acreage of such proposed focus areas account for more than two percent of the county's farmland.

4. The formation of state or national wildlife refuges, recreation, or conservation areas that impede the existing natural and artificial drainage systems of landowners in the watershed.

5. The continued encroachment of federal and state agencies and local governments on agricultural and forest lands.

6. The closing of Illinois State parks and state historic sites since they are valuable assets for the social and economic survival of rural Illinois.

We will work with state and federal agencies to allow the farming of lands acquired under the Open Lands Trust or other federal or state grant programs. Applications for Open Lands Trust funds to be used for wetlands or riparian areas must include a mosquito abatement and management plan. The timetable for development of the land acquired through such grant programs shall be established by the unit of local government but is not to exceed ten years. We encourage public universities to utilize more equitable and risk-sharing adjustable rate leases rather than a competitive bidding cash rent lease process on university-owned farmland. All lessees of Illinois farmland controlled by public Illinois universities shall be Illinois based farmers.


When evaluating farm lease policies on farmland owned by the University of Illinois and other public universities, the long-term land stewardship commitments, the full potential local effects on rural communities and their economies, and future university relations with possible land donors should be considered in addition to the immediate economic benefits for the universities.

When determining farmland lease policies, the public institutions should consider taking the opportunity to use best management practices on the universities' owned farmland consistent with the information being provided through the University of Illinois Extension Service.

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


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COUNTRY FINANCIAL NEWS FROM COUNTRY FINANCIAL COUNTRY FINANCIAL

Distracted Driving Awareness Month

While parenting can be tricky at any life stage, parents inevitably face a range of new challenges when their kids become teenagers and start driving. You want your teen to enjoy their newfound independence, but how do you make sure they stay safe behind the wheel? In observance of Distracted Driving Awareness month (April), COUNTRY Financial wants to help parents protect themselves and their teen drivers.

According to the National Safety Council, on a typical day more than 700 people are injured in distracted driving crashes, but the good news is that many of these accidents are preventable. COUNTRY Financial is here to help prepare you and your teenager to be a safe driver for life.

Be Alert and Minimize Distractions

From smartphones to touch screen monitors and satellite radio, we're surrounded by more distracting technology in our cars than ever before.

A split-second glance at a screen can end in tragedy for a driver, their passengers, and other drivers, so make sure you talk to your teen about having a strategy in place

for keeping their eyes on the road. For example, many smartphones will automatically disable incoming texts while the car is moving so your teen won't be tempted to look at their phone.

Plan Ahead

Every time a driver gets in their car, they should go through a mental checklist of tasks before even turning the ignition. In addition to fundamental safety precautions like checking mirrors and buckling seatbelts, they should also set up a GPS map of their route and queue up their playlist. Taking these simple steps before they leave—rather than while they're on the way—can help make sure they get there safely.

Follow the Rules of the Road for Teens

Teens are often tempted to speed, run red lights, roll through stop signs, and otherwise break the law while driving. Make sure they understand that being on time—even if it's for school or their curfew—is never worth risking their safety on the road. If you're looking for some extra peace of mind, there are a number of apps available that can alert you if your teen is driv-

ing faster than a speed limit you determine. **Find Ways to Save on Teen Driver Insurance Coverages**

Teen drivers are often more expensive to insure, since historical evidence shows they have higher accident rates than adults. Talk with your insurance representative about potential discounts and programs that can help cut costs, such as driver safety courses and good student discounts.

About COUNTRY Financial
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March Board Highlights

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Knox County Farm Bureau was held on March 16, 2023.

Education & Outreach – Lori Engel

The next Adult AITC program is being planned.

Farm Business – Brian Nelson

Illinois Farm Bureau hosted a Rules of the Road Meeting on March 15 at 6PM at the Agri Center.

Government and Policy – Drew DeSutter

Sign up for FB Act text alerts by texting the word FARM to 52886. The KCFB Legislative Luncheon was held on March 13 at noon at the Packinghouse. Members of the County Board attended along with all the Representatives and Senators who represent Knox County.

Member Relations – Jeff Grady

The 2023 quota program has been released.

Young Farmers – Tyler Main

Young Farmers met on March 9 at 6PM at the Agri Center. The FFA Acquaintance

Night will be March 21 at Beaver's Teeth in Knoxville.

PrimeTimers – Hailey Hennenfent

The PrimeTimers will meet on March 21 for a potluck meal and speaker. Tom Simkins spoke on ways Galesburg has been improved.

Foundation – Hailey Hennenfent

Internship and scholarship applications were reviewed on March 28 and those chosen will be awarded soon at their school award nights if possible.

KAC – Hailey Hennenfent

The Agri Center Board met on February 28 for their quarterly meeting and the new roof will begin on March 10.

OLD BUSINESS

There are 3 vacancies on the Knox County Farm Bureau Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Programs of Work for Task Forces were approved.

KCFB will be sponsoring t-shirts for all 4-H Livestock exhibitors.

AGENT SPOTLIGHT



Name: Michael J. White
Years with COUNTRY: 40 Years
Office Address: 415 N Henderson St., Galesburg, IL 61401
Phone: 309-342-3177 office; 309-621-3088 cell; Text
eMail Address: michael.white@countryfinancial.com
Designations: MDRT; Million Dollar Round Table 2014 and 2016. Life Underwriting Training Council Fellow; LUTCF
Community Service: Mike is a past President of Western Illinois Estate and Financial Planners. He is a member of the Galesburg Rotary, Paul Harris Award recipient and has been active in many community organizations in the past. He is US Jaycee Senator, and past President of the Galesburg Jaycees. He coached baseball locally for 16 years and served as Commissioner of the Babe Ruth Leagues for 6 years. He is a Past President of the Galesburg Athletic Booster Club. For several years he served Chrysalis and Cursillo as a leader.
Awards: Mike was inducted to COUNTRY Financial's Hall of Fame in February 2014. Mike has qualified for the All-American Award from COUNTRY 23 times. He was recognized by COUNTRY for his community service in 1996 with the Award of Excellence.
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KCFB Board Attendance

	January	February	March
Beard, Jennifer	P	P	P
Bewley, Beau	P	P	-
Bollivar, Jason	P	P	P
Courson, Dustin	A	A	A
DeSutter, Drew	P	P	P
Emken, Kurt	A	P	A
Emmons, Rob	-	P	P
Engel, Lori	P	P	P
Goedeke, Phil	P	P	P
Grady, Jeff	P	P	A
King, Becky	A	-	-
Link, Aaron	-	P	P
Link, Cory	P	A	P
Link, Nathan	P	-	-
McCormick, Joel	-	P	P
Nelson, Brian	P	A	P
O'Connor, Tom	P	P	P
Shea, Damon	P	A	P
Stevens, Monica	P	A	P
Underwood, Kyle	P	P	P

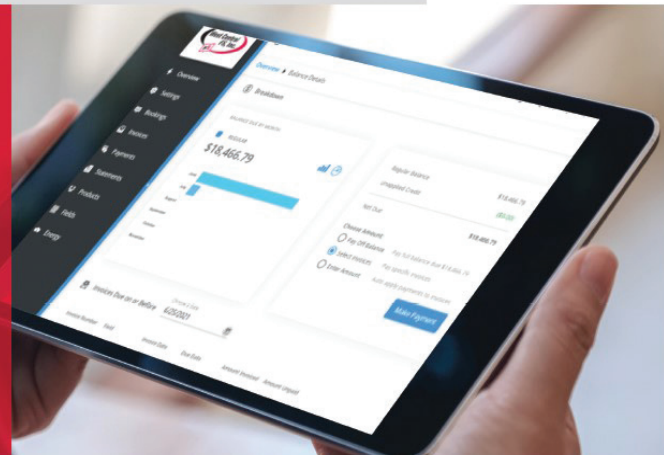
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(A) Absent
(C) Cancelled

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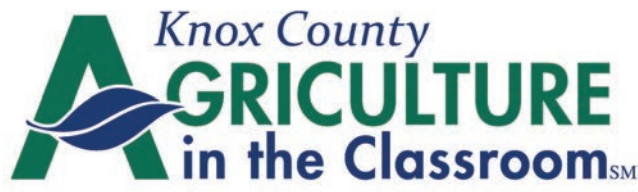
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"Chicks, chicks, and more chicks! Here is a glimpse into chick hatching across the county. More to come!"



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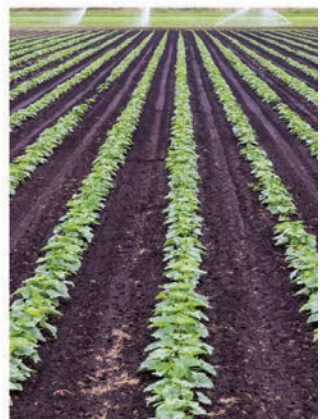
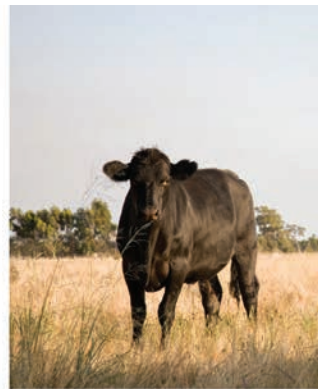
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Health on the Farm

By the Knox County Health Department



National Public Health Week: Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health

The Knox County Health Department recognized National Public Health Week the week of April 3rd -9th. This year's theme was Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health. By continuing to work together, we can make it easier for communities to access the public health resources they need to achieve the highest level of health.

The Knox County Board of Health and KCHD staff would like to engage all communities and all sectors in a conversation about the role each of us can play to put good health within everyone's reach. We can change our future as a society if we all make healthy choices.

The public health progress being made in Knox County is a result of efforts in public health areas including communicable disease; emergency preparedness; inspections of food establishments, private water, and septic systems; childhood lead poisoning prevention; community education; public health planning; coalition participation; and much more. In year 2022:

- 617 food service establishments were inspected
- 35 private sewage systems installed
- 8 potable water wells installed
- 274 STD tests provided through the program

- 932 immunizations provided to children
- 375 immunizations provided to adults
- 3,340 total LIHEAP (Energy Assistance) applications
- 1,682 total LIHWAP (Water Assistance) applications

Every day and during times of emergencies, public health departments make our country a healthier and safer place to live and work. Public health aims to prevent health threats before they occur. Although responsible for much more, public health prevents the spread of disease and chronic conditions that impact the health status of a community. Across the county, public health departments bring people together in emergencies and provide regular assistance to their communities and continue to evolve to meet their needs.

We celebrate the unique and joyful ways different culture focus on health. And we look to how we can learn from each other, with humility and openness. We hope that you join us as it takes working together to make Knox County, and beyond, the healthiest. For more information about the Knox County Health Department visit our website at www.knoxcountyhealth.org or call us at 309-344-2224.

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Recipe of the Month

Garlic Herb Roasted Potatoes, Carrots and Zucchini

Ingredients:

- 1 ¼ lb. baby potatoes, halved
- 1 lb. medium carrots, clean & cut into 2-inch pieces
- 12 oz. zucchini, trimmed & cut into 1-inch pieces
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary

- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 4 cloves garlic, minced

Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 400 degrees and set a rack to the middle. In a large bowl, toss together potatoes and carrots with 2 ½ tablespoons olive oil, thyme, rosemary and season with salt and pepper to taste. Spread onto a rimmed baking sheet. Roast for 20 minutes.
2. Toss zucchini in a bowl with the remaining ½ tablespoon olive oil and season lightly with salt. Add to the baking sheet with other vegetables. Add minced garlic and toss everything together. Spread into an even layer. Return to oven and roast until all the vegetables are tender and slightly browned, about 20 minutes longer. Serve immediately.



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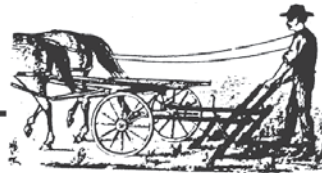
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How Farm Bureau Served YOU in March

1. Nine Illinois Farm Bureau members met with both Illinois senators and seven representatives during the most recent Leaders to Washington program. Crop insurance was a common topic during the discussions.
2. IFB was among more than 400 agriculture groups sending a letter to the U.S. House and Senate asking for "sufficient budgetary resources" to be allocated for this year's farm bill.
3. The American Farm Bureau Federation signed a memorandum of understanding with Case IH and New Holland, giving farmers access to tools and software needed to repair their own equipment.
4. The Illinois Agri-Food Alliance, of which IFB is a member, launched AGNITOR, a digital platform that connects students with professionals in the ag and food sectors for virtual chats. The goal of the platform is to spark student interest in ag careers.



Looking Back



April 1985

Farm Leaders attend State Women's Conference

More than 300 county Farm Bureau leaders from around the state gathered in Decatur March 25-27 for the Illinois Farm Bureau state women's conference. The women heard Stuart Proctor, Assistant Director of National Affairs for the American Farm Bureau Federation discuss the 1985 farm bill and other congressional issues, and Ron Hanson of University of Nebraska, tell how to build better working relationships among farm family members. The group also attended seminars on a variety of subjects including public relations techniques, farm recordkeeping alternatives, and marketing and local government. Other workshops were held on the Ag-in-the-classroom program, and human health issues in agriculture. The annual conference is held for county Farm Bureau women's committee members.



Pictured with Hazel Fritz (left), District 8 representatives are (L to R), Candi Corn, Ruth Knott (Fulton), & Joyce King, Diane Holmes (Knox).

PrimeTimers News

PrimeTimers will meet on April 18 for their monthly meeting potluck and speaker. A speaker will present on Abingdon Pottery history. If you plan on attending, please bring a dish to pass. 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!

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITERS OF THE MONTH



The Knox County Farm Bureau would like to recognize COUNTRY Financial Representatives, Ed Johnson and Doug Atwater as the top membership recruiters in March. Ed signed one new voting member and one new associate member. Doug signed two new Associate Members. Call your COUNTRY Representatives for all your insurance and financial needs.

~ 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.

HAY FOR SALE: First, Second, and Third cutting of grass and grass and alfalfa. Round bales- \$60-\$80/bale; Small square bales- \$5-\$7/bale. Call 309-368-0561

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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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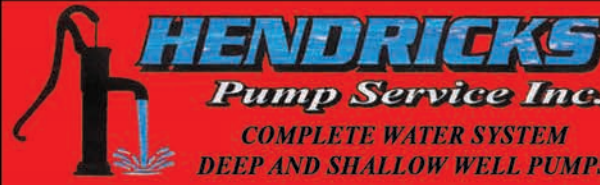
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