### **Knox County Farm Bureau®**



**USPS 297-360** 

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

#### VOL. CII

## 50 Year Members

The Knox County Farm Bureau would like to recognize these members for their 50 Years of loyal membership. Those voting members joining the Knox County Farm Bureau in 1974 are: Richard Van Winkle Marvin Setterdahl James McRell Harold Waters Gerald Buckman



Knox County Farm Bureau in 1974 are: Richard Van Winkle Marvin Setterdahl James McRell Harold Waters Gerald Buckman Michael Collopy Those in attendance at the 106th KCFB Annual Meeting were: Mike & Lorie Collopy Gerald & Sue Buckman Harold Watters



Mike and Lorie Collopy pictured with KCFB President Drew DeSutter



Gerald and Sue Buckman pictured with KCFB President Drew DeSutter



**NUMBER 2** 

Harold Watters pictured with KCFB President Drew DeSutter

### Meritorious Service to Agriculture Award Winners

At the 106th KCFB Annual Meeting, Knox Agri Center Director Pete Holmes presented Don Moffitt and Pat Hennenfent the 2023 Meritorious Service to Agriculture Award.

The award is given to people who have made an outstanding contribution to the agricultural industry. 28 recipients have been awarded before Pat and Don.

This Spring, the Knox Agri Center will be unveiling a new plaque in the building that will allow for more space to continue honoring more and more Knox County agriculture supporters.



Knox Agri Center Director Pete Holmes, at left, and Award Winner Don Moffitt.

### Thank You Auction Sponsors

Thank you to the following businesses, organizations, and individuals who donated to the Knox County Farm Bureau Foundation's silent and live auctions at the Knox County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on January 27, 2024. Your generous donations and support is greatly appreciated!



**FEBRUARY 2024** 

Knox Agri Center Director Pete Holmes with Phil Hennenfent, Scott Hennenfent, Kim Hennenfent, and David Hennenfent accepting the Award for the late Pat Hennenfent.



nations and support is greatly appreciated!

#### AC McCartney

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#### 





#### **DOUG ATWATER** COUNTRY Financial<sup>®</sup> Representative

#### 21 Associate Members

#### Knox County Farm Bureau

Members are always welcome at Knox County Farm Bureau's Board of Director meetings. They are held the third Thursday of each month. Please call for times.



February 2024 No. 2 Published Monthly by: KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU, Inc. cooperating with the ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION and the AMERICAN FARM BUREAU **FEDERATION** 

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#### Farms need licensed truckers CDL? 10-4.

That three-letter acronym for Commercial Driver's License also stands for one of my biggest life achievements. Until two years ago, I had no idea how to drive a stick shift. Not even in a car. But our family farm needed more truck drivers, and I wanted to contribute. I stood determined to drive a 10-speedtransmission semi and learn to double clutch while mindful of a 42-foot-long trailer behind me.

Semis arrived on our farm about 30 years ago, a need driven by greater crop productivity, bigger farm equipment and the desire for efficiency. Today, we require people with this licensed skill in the spring to deliver seed and fertilizer to planters in the field, in the summer to get product to the sprayer, in the fall to move grain from field to storage, and another nine months of the year to haul grain to market.

Given my serious lack of experience, I must credit the patience of six men with licenses on the farm who encouraged and helped me earn a full-fledged CDL about 14

#### Page 2

months ago. Poor Kent on the first day I attempted to learn straight-line backing, and poor Dale, who witnessed me crawl a hill in respect for our team and other men and first gear from a standstill while fully loaded.

With the help of YouTube and excessive amounts of practice with members of our farm team riding shotgun, I passed all the required tests: the three written exams, the detailed under-hood inspection, the skills course, and the drive. Per test requirements, I parallel-parked the semi and grain trailer, successfully putting all 18 wheels inside the lines from the driver's side. (Just in case I ever need to parallel park on a one-way street.) I aced offset backing with no pull-ups on my second skills course attempt, and afterward drove the city streets and interstate without

missing a gear. Whew.

Most importantly, I gained empathy and women who have mastered the skill. I now drive my minivan differently, understanding the risks that drivers of passenger vehicles can create in their sudden stops, haphazard lane changes and merges without consideration. All drivers should take a written CDL exam, if nothing more than to learn the length a semi needs to stop. To that, I would expect a loud and clear 10-4.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans, hay and cover crops and raise beef cattle, backyard chickens and farmkids.



### Farm Bureau Policy

#### **21. FORESTRY** We support:

1. State and federal incentives for active forest management of privately-owned forests and woodlands in Illinois.

2. The planting of trees on land that is unable to meet conservation compliance standards to help control soil erosion and increase timber resources.

3. Ongoing research monitoring and education regarding forest health.

4. Repealing the Timber Tax.

We oppose:

1. Any funds generated by a Timber Tax going to anything besides forest managementincentives for landowners. Until repeal, we support.

2. The change of the Shawnee National Forest becoming a designated National Park and Climate Preserve.

### **WELCOME** NEW MEMBERS

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

# **TRIVIA NIGHT** Friday, March 1st

#### Hosted by Knox County Farm Bureau Young Leaders

Doors open at 5:30 Trivia starts at 6:30



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YOUNG LEADERS

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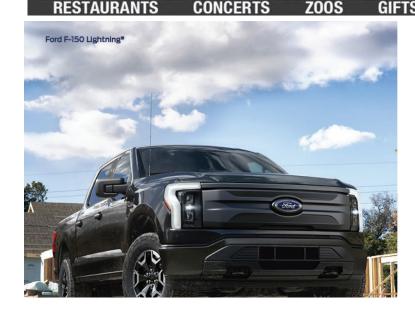
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Page 4

COUNTRY

#### COUNTRY

## NEWS FROM COUN

Make Your Valentine's Day Plan Simple And Significant By Insuring Your Love

February is known as the month of love, and a time we celebrate and honor our love for a significant other. How will you show your significant other how much you care this year? Flowers, candy, and candlelight dinners are all great ways to express admiration for your partner, but how can you make a show of affection that will last beyond February 14th?

Provide your partner with peace of mind with life insurance. Life's milestone moments usually require a promise - to cherish, guard, and protect. And an important part of keeping those promises is making sure your loved ones would be ok financially if something were to happen to you. That's why there's life insurance, allowing you to keep your promise and insure your love. Premiums will never be lower than they are now, and you would be surprised at how affordable it really is.

According to a COUNTRY Financial survey, nearly one-third (29%) of married Americans are not very or not at all confident their families would be able to live comfortably if they were to become disabled or die. Life insurance is a gift that helps your loved ones continue paying the mortgage on your family home, fund a college education, cover debts, and simply pay day-to-day expenses, if and when you die.

#### Protect your loved ones by:

Determining how much life insurance you need. Factor in costs like your mortgage, final expenses and replacing the income you currently provide to your family. Talk with your insurance representative about the best type of life insurance for you.

Life insurance isn't one-size-fits-all. You can customize your plan based on your needs. Whole life insurance remains in effect your entire life as long as you pay the premiums and don't cancel or surrender it, but it's more expensive. Term life insurance is where you essentially 'rent' life insurance and purchase it for a certain amount of time.

As much as it feels overwhelming and uncomfortable to think about things like death and hypothetical tragedy- it's necessary. The month of love is a great time to celebrate and make sure your partner has peach of mind.

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# January Board Highlights

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Knox County Farm Bureau was held on January 18.

#### Education & Outreach - Lori Engel

On January 16, the next program is the Barn Quilt Painting class put on by Art Defined. The class is already full with 30 people. 7 are non-members. February 13 is the Let's do Charcuterie Class currently have 31/35 spots filled. Need a minimum of 20 attendees for Plate Me to come. IFB Consumer Engagement Grant helped with the cost making it \$35 for members and non-members instead of \$50. March's Floral Arranging class is still being finalized.

#### Farm Business - Brian Nelson

Plat Books are available in the office. Plat Books are \$30 for members and \$50 for wall maps for members. Marketing Club has started back up every other Wednesday at the Agri Center.

**Government and Policy - Kurt Emken** 

Sign up for FB Act text alerts by texting the word FARM to 52886. All state legislators have been invited to the KCFB Annual Meeting.

#### Member Relations - Jeff Grady

KCFB met the 2023 Quota ending with 810 MM, 17 MS, 21PM, 1,789 A Members. Young Farmers - Brandon Hall

Young Farmers met on December 21 for their

#### KAC - Hailey Hennenfent

The Agri Center will be replacing the lighting in the building to be LED, energy efficient bulbs and ballasts and the 3 worst HVAC units out of the 6.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

There are 2 vacancies on the Knox County Farm Bureau Board; District 2 & 4.

KCFB Annual Meeting details were discussed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The KCFB Board of Directors Policy was updated and approved.

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2024
Beard, Jennifer	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	С	Р	Р	Р	Р
Bollivar, Jason	Р	P	Р	Р	Р	A	Р	Р	С	Р	Р	Р	Р
Courson, Dustin	A	A	A	A	Р	A	Р	A	С	A	A	Р	A
DeSutter, Drew	Р	P	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	P	С	Р	Р	Р	Р
Emken, Kurt	A	P	A	A	P	P	Р	A	С	P	P	P	P
Emmons, Rob	-	P	Р	Р	A	A	Р	A	С	Р	Р	Р	Р
Engel, Lori	Р	P	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	P	С	Р	Р	Р	Р
Goedeke, Phil	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	С	Р	Р	Р	Р
Grady, Jeff	Р	P	A	A	Р	Р	A	P	С	Р	A	Р	Р
Link, Aaron	-	P	Р	Р	P	Р	Р	P	С	A	Р	Р	Р
Link, Cory	Р	A	Р	A	A	Р	Р	A	С	A	A	A	A
McCormick, Joel	-	P	Р	Р	P	Р	A	P	С	Р	Р	Р	Р
Nelson, Brian	P	A	Р	Р	P	P	Р	P	С	P	Р	Р	P
O'Connor, Tom	P	P	Р	Р	P	Р	Р	P	С	P	Р	Р	Р
Shea, Damon	Р	A	Р	Р	A	A	A	A	С	A	A	A	A
Stevens, Monica	Р	A	Р	Р	A	Р	Р	P	С	A	Р	Р	A
Underwood, Kyle	-	P	Р	Р	Р	A	Р	A	С	Р	Р	Р	A

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December Meeting and Elections Brandon Hall was elected to replace Tyler Main as Young Farmer Chair. FFA Acquaintance Night will be January 22 at Skate Palace. Cover Crop Project Producers Meeting with IFB and U of I is scheduled for lunch on March 1. Invites and more information to come. March 1 is the Young Farmers Trivia Night Fundraiser.

#### **PrimeTimers – Hailey Hennenfent**

The PrimeTimers Program of Work planning meeting is scheduled for January 16 at Noon at the Agri Center. The next PrimeTimers meeting is February 20.

#### Foundation - Hailey Hennenfent

KCFB Foundation Scholarship and Internship program applications are due February 16 by 4:30PM and are available on the website. Next quarter Ag in the Community Grant Applications due February 1, 2024.

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# Knox County Farm Bureau Page 5 February 2024 Legislation Introduced To Change Illinois Estate Tax

#### By Erin Henkel, FarmWeek

New bipartisan measures aimed at ensuring the preservation of family farms in the event of a family member's death were announced Wednesday after years of attempting to reform the Illinois Estate and Generation Transfer Tax Act.

Supported by Illinois Farm Bureau, Senate Bill 2921, introduced by State Sen. Dave Koehler, D-Peoria, and House Bill 4600, introduced by State Rep. Sharon Chung, D-Bloomington, are identical bills that if passed would change the state's estate tax, specific to farms.

"Illinois Farm Bureau is proud to support the Family Farm Preservation Act because our policy supports the preservation of family farms and this is a bipartisan effort to keep farm families on the family farm," said Brian Duncan, IFB president. "We are grateful and excited to see members from all four caucuses (lend their support for the legislation)."

The measures are aimed at addressing the discrepancy between escalating farm estate evaluations and annual farm income.

"This is a historic day. We've got some legislation before us that really is long overdue," Koehler said during a press conference at the Illinois Farm Bureau headquarters in Bloomington. "This is an industry that is made up of family farms ... 96% of farms are family farms, so why would we risk that from being upset by people having to sell the farm to pay their estate tax."

Chung said after a fall spent on combine rides with farmers, she learned the estate tax is a top concern.

<sup>c</sup>We're really doing this to help bring a lot of relief to family farms and make sure that family farms stay within families," Chung told RFD.

Currently, any estate in Illinois with a gross value of \$4 million after inclusion of taxable gifts, is taxed in its entirety using a complex formula and is subject to a graduated state estate tax.

Rep. Charlie Meier, R-Okawville, a working farmer, shared examples of how the tax has impacted his own farming community.

"For decades I have watched family farms get sold because they have to pay an inheritance tax. ... People think we are rich because we have this huge asset of farmland," he said. "That's not farmland to us, that's a member of our family. That member of our family has taken care of our family for generations. ... That's what this bill is about — future generations being able to farm that land, keeping America the cheapest fed nation in the world and keeping

the family farm going." While farm estate evaluations cross the \$4 million threshold, they do not reflect financial reality for farm families in the state, according

### AGENT SPOTLIGHT

Name: Doug Atwater 8 Years with COUNTRY: 7 years Office Address: 111 N. Market St., Ste. D Knoxville, IL 61448

Phone: 309-948-7943 eMail Address: doug.atwater@countryfinancial.com Family: Allison wife, Son Jack, Daughter Brooklyn Education: Business Administration, University of Texas Brownsville

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to Gary Schnitkey, professor of farm management at the University of Illinois.

"To get that transferred from this generation to the next generation, they are going to owe a sizable chunk of tax to the state of Illinois," Schnitkey told FarmWeek. "It's feasible but they are probably going to have to go into debt to do it. They aren't going to have the cash outstanding. ... They are going to have a new debt payment on that land."

To continue farming on their family farms, many farm families must make the decision to go into debt or sell off portions of the farm or equipment, leaving farm families without the assets necessary to sustain their livelihoods and provide for their families.

"It increases the incentive to sell the farmland to settle the estate tax, so you don't have to come up with the funding to do it because there's no other liquid assets in the estate," Schnitkey said.

According to a recent farmdoc article coauthored by Schnitkey, the average farm size in Illinois is 1,300 acres, with farmers owning around a quarter of the land, or 325 acres, with an average annual income of approximately \$100,000.

The estate valuation for 325 acres would be \$4.875 million, based on the average market price of \$15,000 per acre. The land would generate a tax liability of \$250,000. The 325 acres, however, only produces about \$25,000 of income.

Without including the values of farm infrastructure, equipment or the homestead, which are also evaluated under the estate tax and generate additional tax liability, the family is left paying taxes 10 times the income generated by their ground.

Schnitkey said the \$100,000 estimate is still above average due to record high years in 2022 and 2023, when prices were influenced by conflicts overseas. He said he is anticipating incomes to drop back down to around \$70,000 to \$80,000 annually.

Schnitkey said the estate tax is becoming a "bigger deal" due to large increases in land prices and said he thinks the exemption should be increased to reflect inflation.

Furthermore, Illinois' \$4 million threshold

lags the federal estate tax exemption, which is currently at \$13.6 million, but is scheduled to sunset down to approximately \$6 million in 2026.

If either SB 2921 or HB 4600 are passed, they would reform the current state tax for farm estates only, by changing the tax exclusion to a true exemption, and raising it from \$4 to \$6 million. Only dollars over \$6 million will be taxed under the exemption.

In addition, the measures tie the new \$6 million exemption level to inflation and will be adjusted each year according to the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

The measures would also allow portability between spouses at the state level, a benefit allowed under the federal estate tax; meaning a surviving spouse can use the unused estate tax exemption of a deceased spouse plus their own exemption when they die.

The measures are limited to agriculture, by coupling the changes to only those estates that are eligible for agricultural special use valuation under federal Internal Revenue Service rules.

The farm must make up at least 50% of the gross estate, with 25% of the estate value being the farmland. Additionally, the farm must be farmed by the deceased or family member for five of the previous eight years prior to the deceased's death, and the surviving family must continue farming for 10 years.



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Health on the Farm

### **Keeping Your Child's Teeth Healthy**

Teaching kids the importance of dental hygiene is one of the most important things parents and guardians can do to ensure their children's long-term health. Good oral hygiene habits can help prevent cavities, gum disease, and other dental problems. Unfortunately, many children lack the knowledge and skills needed to develop a healthy dental routine. To help kids build good dental habits, parents should teach them the importance of proper brushing techniques, flossing regularly, eating healthy foods, and visiting the dentist regularly.

Dental hygiene is an important part of a child's overall well-being and should not be overlooked. It is essential to ensure that a child learns the value of dental hygiene from an early age and understand the consequences of poor dental care. As parents, it is our responsibility to help kids build good dental habits that will last them a lifetime.

Here are some basic brushing and dental health tips for infants, toddler, kids, and ado-lescents:

**Infants (0-12 months):** Clean your baby's gums with a soft, damp cloth/gauze (clean) after feedings to remove bacteria and prevent the buildup of plaque. Once the first tooth comes in, start brushing it with a soft-bris-

tled toothbrush and a small amount of non-fluoridated toothpaste.

**Toddlers (1-3 years):** Encourage your toddler to brush their teeth twice a day with a small amount of fluoride toothpaste. Supervise brushing to ensure that all surfaces of the teeth are cleaned. No munching on snacks after brushing at night.

**Kids (4-12 years):** Continue to supervise your child's brushing (a pea sized amount of toothpaste and soft bristle brushes) and flossing and encourage them to brush at least two minutes twice a day.

Adolescents (13-18 years): Encourage your teenagers to continue brushing and flossing regularly, and to use mouthwash.

**Flossing** is another vital dental hygiene habit that children should learn at an early age. Flossing helps remove food particles and plaque from between the teeth, where the toothbrush cannot reach. When children are old enough to floss on their own, they should be encouraged to floss at least once a day.

It is important to teach children the importance of proper dental hygiene as early as possible to ensure they have healthy teeth and gums throughout their life. Teaching kids about dental health can be difficult but it does not have to be. With a few simple tips,



Questions Call 309-344-2224

parents can help their kids learn how to take care of their teeth and keep them healthy for years to come. From regular brushing and flossing habits, to choosing the right foods and drinks, these tips will help kids build

good dental hygiene habits.

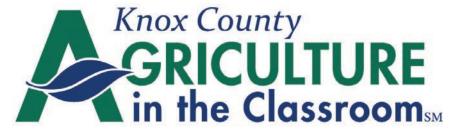
If you are looking to schedule an appointment for you or your children, call the Knox Community Health Center at 309-344-2225 to make an appointment with our dental team.

# January Snow and Agriculture in the Classroom Update

January AITC has meant a lot of snow days! However, several classes were in session between snow and ice and fog. Kindergarteners and first graders learned about fibers and second graders learned about soil.

Kindergarteners and first graders were able to touch a real sheep skin! Using the story <u>If You Want to Knit Some Mittens</u>, students learned that it takes a really long time to make mittens when you start from the beginning! From sheep to mittens takes an entire year!

First graders added another animal to their ag knowledge, goats. Students learned that not only do they provide fibers but can be milked! Students had the opportunity to smell the goat milk soap Mrs. Green brought to class. They also got to feel mohair, a fiber made from goat hair. They learned that some of the fibers that make their clothing come from plants like cotton. Students enjoyed the story <u>The</u>



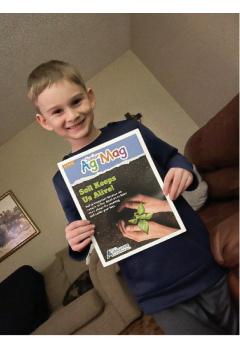
<u>Goat with Many Coats</u> which is a true story about an orphaned goat. Little Prospect didn't have much hair, so his newly adopted owner dressed him in little coats to keep

him warm.

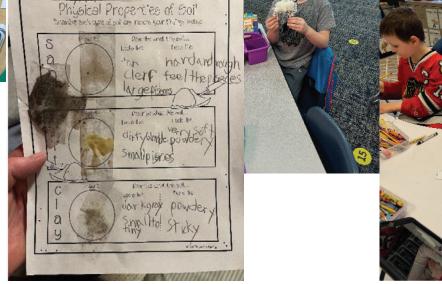
Second graders had the opportunity to explore the physical characteristics of sand, silt, and clay. They used a hand lens to look at the particle sizes. Students were also given a sample of Knox County Farm soil to compare the color to the other soil types. A soil sifter was used to illustrate the different size particles that are found in soil.

The end of January included the Knox County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and a great fundraising event to support Ag in the Classroom. Thank you to everyone who donated items and for those who bid on them.











# Looking Back

#### February 1988

#### **Ryner Teaches ATV Workshop**



Knox County Sheriff's Department Deputy, Gary Ryner, instructed fifteen 4-H'ers on the safe operation of all-terrain vehicles. Ryner spoke to the group at the February 12 4-H Workshop Day. Information presented to the children were the laws governing the operation of ATVs, as well as how to properly us such vehicles. The all-terrain vehicle workshop was sponsored by the Knox County Young Farmers Committee.

#### **Prime Timers News**

PrimeTimers will meet on February 20, 2024 at noon for the catered Program of Work planning meeting. 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** Slow Cooker Pork Chops and Rice

#### Ingredients:

- 4 boneless pork chops
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup water
- 10.5 ounce can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon dried onion flakes
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 stick butter, cubed
- 2 cups Minute rice
- 1 cup water (to add toward the end with the rice)
- 1 to 1-1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

#### Instructions:

- Spray slow cooker with non-stick spray 1.
- Add the pork chops 2.
- Next, add the mushroom soup, chicken broth, water, garlic powder, onion 3. flakes, salt, and pepper.
- Add the cubed stick of butter on top. 4.
- Cover and cook on low for 7 hours. 5.
- After 7 hours, remove lid and shred the pork chops with a fork. 6.
- Add the rice and one more cup of water. Stir to make sure the rice is 7. covered with liquid.
- Cover and cook on High for 45 minutes or until rice is done. 8.
- Remove lid, add shredded cheddar cheese, and stir. 9.
- 10. Enjoy!

### MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER **OF THE MONTH**

The Knox County Farm Bureau would like to recognize COUNTRY Financial Representative, Doug Atwater as the top membership recruiter in January. Doug signed four new Associate Members. Call your COUNTRY Representative for all your insurance and financial needs.



Doug Atwater



### ~ 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

WANTED: Wooden Cattle Feed Bunks. Call & leave a message. (309) 484-4693.

FOR SALE: Antique Steel Wagon Wheels, \$35 each. Bicycles & Parts, Antique Hay Rack, Antique Seeder - Make an Offer. Call (309) 335-1316

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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