

Bulletin



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



L to R: David Hennenfent (Kim's son) with Drew DeSutter

L to R: Karen Hall with Drew DeSutter

L to R: Steve Main with Drew DeSutter

50 Year KCFB Members Recognized

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 1976 are:

- Kimberly Hennenfent
- Jerry Rogers
- Miriam McNeil
- Robert Potts
- Lou Ann Johnston
- Daybreak Farms
- Roger Schultz
- George Coussens



Karen Hall
Stephen Main
Those in attendance at the 108th KCFB Annual Meeting are pictured.



L to R: Robert and Gayla Potts with Drew DeSutter

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

- Robert Allen
- Delbert Curtis



KCFB Presidents Award

At the 108th Annual Meeting of the Knox County Farm Bureau, President Drew DeSutter introduced the Presidents Award. This award was created for the President to award a volunteer for their continued support and volunteerism throughout the past year. This year's award was given to Brandon Hall.



Meritorious Service to Ag Award Winner

At the 108th KCFB Annual Meeting, Knox Agri Center President Tim Main presented David C. Erickson the 2025 Meritorious Service to Agriculture Award. The award is given to people who have made an outstanding contribution to the agricultural industry. 31 recipients have been awarded before David. L to R: David C. Erickson with Tim Main

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 24, 2026. Your generous donations and support is greatly appreciated!

- Abingdon Banking Center
- Bar 65
- Barry Fisher
- Birkey's Farm Store
- COUNTRY Financial Crop Specialist – Michael Moore
- Compeer Financial
- David & Brenda Bliss
- Diamond Ag – Jordan Smith
- Diane & Pete Holmes
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- Knox County Soil & Water Conservation Dist.
- Knoxville FFA & Alumni
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- Mark & Patty Compton
- Merris Hennenfent

- Nutrien Ag Solutions – Douglas Ray Stevens
- ROWVA FFA & Alumni
- Roxanne Green
- Steve Main
- Teresa Sanford-Shipplett
- Tharp Auction Service
- Tompkins State Bank
- USI United Soils
- Walnut Creek Ag Services – Matt & Mark Johnson
- West Central FS
- Western Grain Marketing

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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Telephone:
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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



Eggs Aren't Dairy and Other Farm Terms to Know

The veterinarian suggested her patient avoid dairy. The owners read through food and treat labels, making plans to eliminate eggs from their dog's diet.

Milk, cheese, butter ... eggs. The grocery store's layout had taught these consumers that cold case means dairy. Re-categorizing eggs as dairy wasn't a commonplace farm mix-up I had heard of or even considered before, but I personally have witnessed a dairy cow give milk and a hen lay an egg. The reality is fewer than 1% of us likely have according to the Census, so here's a quick guide

to avoid the "not-from-around-here" vibe – something I need when visiting Chicago.

Hay and straw are not interchangeable. Animals eat one and sleep on the other. Hay is made from grasses or legumes that are cut, dried and stored to feed animals. Straw is the leftover stalk from grains like wheat or oats. It's great for bedding, insulation or fall décor, but if you offer it as dinner to our cows, they'll stare you down. Literally. Cows are honest like that.

Silo is the catchier term, but most cylindrical farm structures in Illinois are actually bins. A grain bin is round, wide and made of corrugated shiny steel. It stores dried grains like corn, soybeans and wheat. Silos are skinny, tall and narrow structures often made of brown-gray concrete or blue smooth steel. They hold moist animal feeds like silage. Both store farm products but avoid misspeaking in conversation with a farmer.

Not every piece of equipment with big tires is a tractor. Some are. Some are combines. Some are sprayers. Some pull things. Some do things. I get it. I still can't name all the tillage tools correctly. Likewise, not every cow is a cow unless you know it's a momma. But to avoid studying anatomy and adding bull, steer and heifer to the vocabulary, "cattle" safely sums up the herd in the plural.

Please know that not every egg can produce a chick. Field corn and sweet corn look similar until you eat them. Generally, barns hold animals and sheds store equipment and tools. The exception is barndominiums, the new hybrid. And avoid saying dirt, especially in front of our FFA soils coach.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her parents and brother in Knox County, where they grow corn, soybeans and hay, raise beef cattle and operate side businesses related to the family operation.

Getting To Know Farm Bureau Policy

72. SPECIALTY CROPS

Specialty crops are defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops including floriculture.

We support:

1. Enhancing the specialty crops industry's image through marketing, promotions, legislative engagement, and programming.
2. Efforts to increase individuals' access to fresh, healthy, local food through direct marketing outlets.
3. Providing programming, legislative, and marketing efforts for the continued growth of the industry and development of various specialty crops that are not already defined by USDA.
4. Funding for specialty crop research, extension services, pathologists, and entomologists to assist with the growth of the industry.

5. The simplification and expansion of the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) to provide financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops, including those grown for food or horticultural, to protect against natural disasters that prevent crop planting or result in lower yields or losses.

6. Cost-share funding for USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification.

7. Reduced cost of Good Handling Practices (GHP) certification for small and very small producers.

8. Standardization and clarity in the food grading system.

9. Adoption of the FDA-State Produce Safety Implementation Cooperative Agreement Program.

10. Implementation of and funding for the Value-Added Producer Working Grant Program for both food safety-only and

working capital applicants.

11. Funding for the Food Safety Intervention Technologies Research Unit to develop new processes to improve the safety of the food supply and to determine the efficacy and suitability of new biological, chemical, and non-thermal physical technologies.

12. Development of technologies to reduce, control or eliminate foodborne pathogens from food products and contact surfaces.

13. Simplification of state and federal agency food procurement processes.

14. An indemnification program funded by state or federal sources that provides for losses of plants and nursery stocks that must be eradicated to control the spread of serious communicable diseases. Indemnity payments should be based upon current market values.

MEAT & GREET

Exploring Cuts, Tools, & Flavor

Join us for a hands-on session where Henn House BBQ teaches us the secrets behind cuts, tools, and big flavor. Bring your questions and your appetite.

HENNHOUSE BARBEQUE Wednesday, March 4, 2026
6:00PM at The Knox Agri Center
\$35 per person

ADULT AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

This event made possible in thanks to the Illinois Farm Bureau Consumer Engagement Grant.

These area businesses are proud to be a part of our 2026 Discount Program for members of the Knox County Farm Bureau

The Knox County Farm Bureau does not intend the Membership Discount Program as an indorsement of any businesses or product/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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<p>10% Off Lawn Care Applications for New Customers Their First Year Liqui-Green 10% Off Tree & Shrub Feeding first time service for Current Customers Lawn & Tree Service (309) 341.0800 liquigreenofgalesburg@gmail.com</p>	<p>Kohl's -Free Ring Cleaning & Inspection - \$8.00 Watch Battery 370 EAST SIMMONS GALESBURG 309.344.EVER M-TH 9-5:30 SAT 9-5 YOUR FULL SERVICE HOMETOWN JEWELER</p>	<p>15% Discount on Purchase HH 120 Hidden Drive Galesburg, IL 61401 (309) 289-2948 hiddenhillswinery@gmail.com</p>
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<p>CUSTOM PORK SPICE \$15.00 for Members \$20.00 for Non-Members</p>		<p>10% Discount BEDNAR CHIROPRACTIC 2171 IL-8 Yates City, IL 61572 1113 Court St. Pekin, IL 61554</p>
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<p>MEMBERS SAVE IN THE SHOP</p>	<p>JOHN DEERE CAT GRAINGER CASE III AGRICULTURE SAVE WITH EQUIPMENT DISCOUNTS</p>	<p>ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU SAVE TODAY! www.myifb.org</p>
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<p>MEMBERS SAVE IN HEALTH</p>	<p>SCRIPTSAVE START HEARING SOUNDGEAR SAVE WITH HEALTH & WELLNESS DISCOUNTS</p>	<p>ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU SAVE TODAY! www.myifb.org</p>
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<p>ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU Farm. Family. Food.™</p>	<p>ONE STOP SAVINGS Log in to our new membership benefit platform using your county Farm Bureau membership number at https://ilfb.abenity.com HOW TO: First time users: Click Register button Membership Number, do not include any letters</p>	<p>Knox County Farm Bureau® Last name, First name Last name, First name Memb# 048-19719 A Exp. Date 04/30/2017 ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION® ILFB.ORG</p>
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RESTUARANTS CONCERTS ZOOS GIFTS FLOWERS FASHION SPORTING EVENTS TRAVEL HEALTH

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KCFB Board Attendance 2025-2026

	November	December	January
Beard, Jennifer	P	P	P
Bollivar, Jason	A	P	P
Courson, Dustin	A	A	A
DeSutter, Drew	P	P	P
Eagle, Tim	A	P	P
Emken, Kurt	P	P	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	P
Grady, Jeff	P	P	P
Hall, Brandon	P	P	-
Link, Aaron	A	A	P
Link, Cory	P	A	A
Main, Jason	P	P	P
McCormick, Joel	P	P	P
Nelson, Brian	P	P	P
Underwood, Kyle	P	A	P

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

Meet Knox County Farm Bureau Board Member Rob Emmons!

Meet Knox County Farm Bureau Board Member, Rob Emmons! Rob has been on the Board of Directors since 2023. Learn more about Rob here:



Rob Emmons

Tell us a little bit about you and your family. I met my wife, Kristen, in 2004 and began working on her family's farm in 2005 while attending Illinois State University. We were married in 2006, and after graduating, I joined the farm full-time. Our family grew with the birth of our daughters, Bailey in 2008 and Camryn in 2010. During those early years, Kristen balanced working full time at Caterpillar, raising our two young daughters, and building a side business—while also completing her bachelor's degree. Since then, we've never let busy schedules stand in the way of new opportunities. In 2016, through an unexpected series of events, we began purchasing rental properties which I now manage and maintain alongside my work on the farm. One of those properties provided the opportunity for Kristen's business, The Simple Things, to grow from a home-based hobby into a storefront in downtown Farmington in 2018. That was followed by the launch of her mobile boutique in 2020. Having watched us build businesses alongside our full-time careers, our daughters were inspired to start their own venture. In 2023, at the ages of 12 and 14, they launched What's Shakin', a mobile lemonade shake-up business. After proving their dedication and work ethic, they repaid the loan for their trailer in 2024 and began planning for expansion. In 2025, they launched What's Brewin', a mobile coffee trailer offering a full menu of coffee and espresso-based drinks. When we're not working on the farm, managing businesses, or helping our daughters grow theirs, we enjoy spending time together with our two yellow labs and the ever-changing number of cats that our girls welcome into our home.

Where are you from? Bartonville, Illinois

What do you love most about agriculture? For me, working on the farm provides a variety of different things to work on. I need to be working on something all the time and the farm rarely fails to provide another job to get done.

Why did you join the Knox County Farm Bureau? I have always been interested in government and seeing how ideas become plans and possibly end up as public policy.

Favorite part of being on the Board of Directors? I have very much enjoyed getting to be part of a group of people with different points of view, but who all have the best intentions for not only the farming community, but for our community as a whole.

What are your hobbies and interests? I enjoy running morning training runs. My absolute favorite hobby is running road races with my daughter Camryn. While I have long since given up on the idea of having time to hunt, I still enjoy target shooting on my backyard range whenever I have a spare minute.

January KCFB Board Highlights

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Knox County Farm Bureau was held on January 15, 2026.

Education & Outreach – Michelle Erickson

January 14 will be the first Adult AITC workshop with Adrienne DeSutter for Sow Hope Grow Hope and a taco bar from Jalisco's.

Farm Business – Brian Nelson

2026 Plat Book and wall maps are now available.

Government and Policy – Kyle Underwood

No report.

Member Relations – Joel McCormick

Pork Spice is available in the office. \$15 for members. The 2026 Quota Program has been set: Engagement- submit CAE's to achieve 8 points; Retention: Attain 94% of the membership quota; Retain 792 members by July 31, 2026; Growth-Achieve a 3+ gain of MM/PM Members by August 31, 2026, 846 members.

Young Farmers – Patrick King

Patrick King was elected Chair, Carl O'Connor was elected Vice President, and Kim King was elected Secretary/Treasurer. A booklet is being compiled of all the soil sampling results with information on each township. Young Farmers

will hold a Trivia Night on March 20.

PrimeTimers – Hailey Hennenfent

The next PrimeTimers meeting will be the catered Program of Work meeting on January 20 at Noon at the office. PrimeTimers are always looking for new members to join, 55 and older!

Foundation – Hailey Hennenfent

Sidney Stiers will be the 2026 Summer Intern. The Agriculture in the Community Grant is available again in 2026 with applications open quarterly. The next quarter applications are due February 1. The KCFB Foundation Scholarship applications are now available on the website. Applications are due February 13 by 4:30PM. The next KCFB Foundation Meeting is on February 24.

KAC – Hailey Hennenfent

New HVAC units for the old COUNTRY office and Suite 107 will be installed on January 15 and 16. The next Knox Agri Center Board Meeting is on February 24.

OLD BUSINESS

We are still looking to fill a vacancy in District 2.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2026 KCFB Annual Meeting was discussed.

Knox County Farm Bureau Foundation

2026

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

THE KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION OFFERS SIX \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: KNOXCFB.ORG/FOUNDATION

Deadline to apply: February 13, 2026 by 4:30PM

WOMEN in AGRICULTURE Conference

MARCH 27 | 2026

BALLY'S QUAD CITIES

REGISTRATION OPEN!

TRIVIA NIGHT



Friday, March 20th

Hosted by Knox County Farm Bureau Young Leaders

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



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Knoxville, Illinois

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AGRI-FINANCE

West Central FS, Inc.

2026 AGRI-FINANCE LOAN PROGRAMS

0% Seed

- 0% to August 31, 2026
- Effective September 1, 2026, rate changes to 5.00% fixed until December 31, 2026
- Effective January 1, 2027 rate changes to the FS Index Rate + 1.00% until maturity
- March 15, 2027 loan maturity date
- Invoices will be billed deferred and drawn on loan before June 30, 2026
- Final sales must be equal to or greater than prior year's sales

0% Crop Protection

- 0% to August 31, 2026
- Effective September 1, 2026 rate changes to 5.00% fixed until December 31, 2026
- Effective January 1, 2027 rate changes to the FS index Rate x+ 1.00% until maturity
- March 15, 2027 loan maturity date
- Invoices will be billed deferred and drawn on loan before August 31, 2026
- Final seed sales must be equal to or greater than prior year's sales

0% BASF

- 0% to November 30, 2026 if purchased by March 15, 2026
- Effective December 1, 2026 rate changes to FS Index Rate until maturity
- March 15, 2027 loan maturity date
- \$10,000 minimum initial purchase
- 4.99% APR on purchases between March 16, 2026 - September 30, 2026
- All participating brands and fungicide application

Input Loans

- All prepay and in-season crop input purchases
- Full term variable rate
- March 15, 2027 loan maturity date

For more information contact: **Jennifer Sparrow**, Agri-Finance Marketing Manager | (309) 221-5620

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LARGE ANIMAL RESCUE OPERATIONS COURSE

Saturday, March 28

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Black Hawk East College- Galva

Join the County Farm Bureaus for an 8-hour course targeted at first responders. This group could include Fire, Police, EMS, EMA, Conservation, and Farmers interested in assisting first responders with rescue operations.

The course will cover the following subjects:

- L.A.R.A (Large Animal Rescue Awareness) Info
- Animal Movement and Haltering Drills
- Basic Rescue Drag Drills
- Rescue Glide Drills
- Trailer Safety & Inspection
- And More



More information will be available soon!



Let's talk about life insurance



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1220-510HC_13581-1/19/2024



Health on the Farm

By the Knox County Health Department



February is Children's Dental Health Month

During the month of February, the Knox County Health Department and Knox Community Health Center celebrate National Children's Dental Health Month. Teaching kids about 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 there are consequences for poor dental care. Parents can help their child learn the value of good dental hygiene from an early age. Parents have the best opportunity to help their child build good dental habits that will last them a lifetime.

Here are some basic brushing and dental health tips for infants, toddlers, kids, and teens:

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-bristled toothbrush and a small

amount of nonfluorinated toothpaste.

Toddlers (1-3 years): Encourage your toddler to brush their teeth twice a day with a rice-sized 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.

Teens (13-18 years): Encourage your teenagers to continue brushing and flossing regularly, and to use non-alcoholic 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 be reached. 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, 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



Dental Services

Our dentists and dental staff provide adults and children of all ages with quality care in a comfortable setting.



Preventative

- Regular cleanings
- Oral exams
- X-rays
- Sealants
- Fluoride treatments

Restorative

- Extractions
- Fillings

CALL (309) 344-2225 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

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.

Knox County Agriculture in the Classroom Update

December was a busy month! Congratulations to Mrs. Green on the birth of her third grandchild, Amelia, who arrived on December 23, 2025! She was the perfect Christmas present!

Knox County History was the December lesson for AITC. Students in third, fourth and fifth grade classes used plat books and clues to complete challenges about townships, cities and villages in Knox County. Can you answer this one?

This village is located in two townships with Copley to the west. The town was originally started about a mile east of the present location. In 1839, the year this queen was crowned, it took her name.

If you said, Victoria, you're correct! Dairy and beef cattle were the January topics for AITC lessons. Thank you to Bill and Matt Hennenfent for providing materials for the lesson. Their donated silage and



corn gluten gave students an answer to their question, "What do cows eat in the winter when the grass is covered with snow?" Students learned about various dairy products and made butter to sample with crackers.

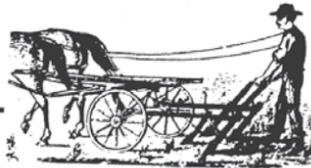
Next month, Mrs. Green and Mrs. Hennenfent are leading professional development for teachers at Orange Cup in Galesburg. The topics are dairy, pork and wheat. Teachers will make charcuterie jars while learning about their contents.

We are including pictures from butter making at Mable Woolsey in Knoxville, Hedding Grade School in Abingdon and ROWVA Elementary School as well as pic-

tures from Mrs. Barker's fourth grade class at King School in Galesburg from their presentation on Galesburg History.



Looking Back



February 2016



Knox County's Tara Yoder of Gilson represented Illinois in the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) Young Farmer & Rancher Discussion Meet in Orlando, Florida in early January.

PrimeTimers News

PrimeTimers met on January 20 and set their yearly Program of Work. The next meeting is potluck style on February 17 with a presentation from Scott Erickson, Knox County Clerk. The following meeting is on March 17. 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

Mini Grilled Cheese Hawaiian Rolls

Ingredients:

- 12 Hawaiian Rolls
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon dried herbs, oregano or basil



Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees
2. Without separating them, slice the entire pack of Hawaiian rolls in half horizontally.
3. Spread softened butter on the cut sides of both top and bottom halves of the rolls.
4. Sprinkle garlic powder over the buttered rolls.
5. Evenly distribute the shredded cheddar and mozzarella cheese over the bottom half of the rolls. Ensure it's well covered.
6. Carefully place the top half of the rolls back onto the cheesy bottom half.
7. Tightly wrap the entire sandwich in aluminum foil to prevent it from drying out while baking.
8. Place the wrapped rolls in the preheated oven and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until the cheese is completely melted.
9. For a golden crust, unwrap the foil and return the rolls to the oven for an additional 5 minutes.
10. Once they are golden and cheesy, remove the rolls from the oven, let cool for a minute, then slice into smaller portions and serve.

~ 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.

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