

Bulletin



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

Knox County Honored During Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Knox County was recently recognized for its outstanding programming during the 109th Annual Meeting of the Illinois Farm Bureau.

At its annual meeting, IFB recognizes outstanding achievement by individual members and county Farm Bureaus (CFBs). Counties compete for awards with other counties of similar membership size. Awards are given for five county groups:

- Group I — counties with 1,330 and fewer members
- Group II — counties with 1,331 to 1,899 members
- Group III — counties with 1,900 to 2,799 members
- Group IV — counties with 2,800 to 5,800 members
- Group V — counties with 5,801 or more members

Awards were evaluated under the County Activities of Excellence (CAE) program. The CAE program recognizes CFBs for program excellence, encourages and assists CFBs in setting goals and priorities, inspires and promotes innovative programming to meet member needs, promotes programming in key areas and provides a resource to counties for the purpose of developing new programs. CAE recognized programs carried out between Sept. 1, 2022, and Aug. 31, 2023.

The Excellence Award is given to the county with the most outstanding project for each pro-

gram area. Excellence Awards encompassed eight program areas: Ag Literacy, Farm Income and Development, Health and Safety, Advocacy, Local Affairs, Engagement and Outreach, Membership Value and Foundations and Fundraising.

Additionally, three awards are given to recognize outstanding efforts by CFBs:

- New Horizon Award** – To encourage new and innovative programs;
- Liberty Bell Award** – To recognize outstanding efforts on issues of public policy impacting state and local Farm Bureau organizational priorities;
- Pinnacle Award** – Highest-level award given to the most outstanding county in each membership group to recognize overall program excellence as it relates to the county Farm Bureau's goals and priorities.

Knox County Farm Bureau members were recently awarded the following:

- Pinnacle Award
- Brandon Hall- Certified Crop Adviser of the Year
- Tyler Main- Top Young Leader Chair for Membership Group 3
- Jim McNelly- Friend of Young Leaders Award Winner
- Teresa Sanford-Shipplett- Ag in the Classroom Volunteer of the Year



Knox County Farm Bureau President Drew DeSutter receives the Pinnacle Award, the highest-level award given to the most outstanding county in each membership group to recognize overall program excellence as it relates to the county Farm Bureau's goals and priorities, from newly elected Illinois Farm Bureau President Brian Duncan during the IFB Annual Meeting.



Teresa Sanford-Shipplett receives the Ag In The Classroom Volunteer of the Year Award from out-going Illinois Farm Bureau President Rich Guebert Jr. during the 2023 IFB Annual Meeting.

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

- Mark Barlow
- Courtney Donovan
- Dylan Howard
- Marvin Mitchell
- Nichole Moore
- Ashely Olin
- Randy Thompson
- Raymond & Ruth Whitehead
- Jon Clark
- Staci Lefler
- Thomas & Lianna Mastin
- Donald Monroe
- Todd & Allison Olinger
- Noah Olson
- Daniel Smith
- Joshua & Ashley Swank
- Mark Thiel

**KNOX
COUNTY
FARM
BUREAU
FOUNDATION**

**2024 SUMMER
INTERNSHIP
PROGRAM**

The Knox County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering an internship with Knox County Farm Bureau for the summer of 2024. The intern will receive a \$2,000 scholarship.

**Deadline to apply:
February 16, 2024
by 4:30pm**

APPLY TODAY!!
KNOXCFB.ORG/SUMMER-INTERSHIP

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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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



Farms prep for next busy season

We hadn't started changing oil in the tractors, backhoe nor skid steer yet, and our 15-year-old expressed concern. I explained that his favorite, after-school activity in the farm shop was on hold until after the two weekends of extended-family Christmas parties that cleared the space and prompted a deep clean for a holiday potluck, gift opening and gymnasium-style fun on the farm.

Soon enough, maintenance work will dirty the shop floor and oil absorbency granules will be our son's best friend. Most of our farm's equipment will ro-

tate through the shop this winter for oil changes, inspections and replacement of high-wear parts. Planters will unfold for row-by-row examination, part replacements and technology upgrades. The hay baler, mowers and even the small things like Mom's garden tiller make their shop presence before field work resumes in April. The goal: everything works at go time.

Our farm team appreciates the pattern of normal, eight-hour workdays with a designated lunch break between harvesting and planting crops. We take this time to regroup, recharge, market grain and move forward. In this winter season of self-evaluation, my parents, brother and I will meet to discuss farm improvements and transition plans. Bookkeeping, balance sheets, tax planning, land leases and employee meetings quickly fill the days between conferences and meetings about

farm policy, grain marketing, agronomic research and other ways to better the farm.

Dad tends to our small herd of beef cows, a daily chore most pleasant in mild winters. Otherwise, heavy snow and sub-zero winds add shoveling, scooping and thawing to the routine. Our employees haul corn from our grain bins to facilities that produce biofuel and feed co-products. They deliver soybeans, depending on the type, to various places for export, seed or use in high-protein foods.

This year will bring a combination of sticking with what works and trying something new in search of the next tried-and-true. The knowledge passed down from previous generations tells us our farm was shaped on both failures and successes, but we're always aiming for the latter. Here's hoping for a safe and successful 2024 in farm country.

'Rules For The Road' Trucking Seminar in Rock Island County

Illinois Farm Bureau will host a series of two-hour programs focusing on transportation laws and regulations as they pertain to the agricultural industry.

Rock Island County Farm Bureau will host one of the sessions on Tuesday, February 27th at 10:00 a.m. and Peoria County will host one of the session on March 19 at 10:00 a.m.

The Rules for the Road Seminar will cover recent changes, as well as some of the more established but still misun-

derstood rules. Topics may include the USDOT Number, UCR registration, Entry Level Driver Training, farm exemptions, and driver's license classifications to name a few. In addition, one of the events will also be broadcast virtually on March 5th at 10 am. "These presentations take a closer look at the rules and provide an opportunity for farmers to ask ag-related trucking questions that they can't seem to find clear answers for," said Rodney Knittel, IFB Associate Director

of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Knittel specializes in farm transportation issues and will lead the seminar series and will be joined by Illinois enforcement agencies.

Rules for the Road seminars are open to all Illinois Farm Bureau members. Attendance is free but advance registration is required. Please call your local county farm bureau to reserve your place at the Rules for the Road Seminar. Registration opens February 1st.

Learn more about trucking regulations to help you stay legal and safe when you hit the road.

SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY

22ND AT 9 AM WASHINGTON/PERRY COUNTIES
22ND AT 6 PM MASSAC COUNTY
23RD AT 9 AM WAYNE COUNTY
27TH AT 10 AM ROCK ISLAND COUNTY
28TH AT 6 PM WILL COUNTY

MARCH

5TH AT 6 PM JASPER COUNTY
5TH AT 10 AM SANGAMON COUNTY
7TH AT 6 PM JERSEY COUNTY
13TH AT 6 PM LIVINGSTON COUNTY
14TH AT 6 PM DEKALB COUNTY
19TH AT 10 AM PEORIA COUNTY
20TH AT 9 AM ADAMS COUNTY

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

Attendance is open to all Illinois Farm Bureau Members

REGISTRATION OPENS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST.

Please contact your local County Farm Bureau to register.



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KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION

The Knox County Farm Bureau Foundation offers six, \$1,000 scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarships available on our website: knoxcfb.org/foundation

Deadline to apply: February 16, 2024, by 4:30pm

Apply Today!

These area businesses are proud to be a part of our 2024 Discount Program for members of the Knox County Farm Bureau®

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.

<p>New discounts coming soon!!!!</p>	 <p>1964 N. Henderson St. Galesburg, IL 61401 (309) 344-3121</p> <p>\$2.00 Off Any Large Pizza \$1.00 Off Any Medium Pizza (one use per day)</p> <p>(not good in conjunction with any other offer)</p>	<p>KNOX - GALESBURG SYMPHONY</p> <p>309.341.7268 Visit KnoxGalesburgSymphony.org</p> <p>10% discount on Adult Single Tickets 5% discount on Subscription Packages</p>
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 <p>TicketsatWork.com</p> <p>Fun. With benefits.</p> <p>Visit TicketsatWork.com Click become a member, create an account, company code: KCFB</p>	 <p>Sabrina's 224 E. Main St., Galesburg 341-0842 • 342-7913</p> <p>Bridal, Prom & Formal Wear M-F 1:00-6:00pm</p> <p>• \$10.00 OFF with a \$100.00 Purchase • Not be combined with any other discount.</p>	 <p>SHERWIN WILLIAMS 2246 Promenade Court Galesburg, Illinois 61401 (309) 344-3942</p> <p>Show Your Membership Card For Discount!</p>
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NEWS FROM COUNTRY FINANCIAL

Let's Take A Retirement Test Drive

Retirement is probably something you've been dreaming about for years – and we don't blame you. Some want to escape to a sunny beach or calming mountain top, while others just want to sip coffee on their porch in the morning and escape the rat race. We're here to help make that happen.

With all of the retirement tips floating around, we know it can be overwhelming. There's loads of information out there and different approaches you can take. We want to make it easy for you.

Here's a simple step you can take to see if you are financially ready to retire: Test drive retirement.

Here's what we mean:

- Identify all your sources of retirement income -- social security, your

401k, savings, and pension.

- Determine your monthly income from those sources.
- Here's where the "test drive" part comes in. Set that as your new monthly budget and continue to work.
- Direct any income that exceeds your new monthly budget to your 401(k) or other retirement plans to boost that balance during your "test drive."

To be sure you can handle any peaks in expenses, such as holiday expenses and vacations, keep working for six months to a year and see how comfortable you are with your expected retirement income.

If you're financially comfortable after your "test drive," that might mean you're closer than you thought to calling yourself a retiree!

December Board Highlights

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Knox County Farm Bureau was held on December 21.

Education & Outreach – Lori Engel

The winter Adult AITC program has started. The Wreath Making Class led by Andrew Fritz was held on December 12 with 24 participants. 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. February 13 is the Let's do Charcuterie Class currently have 7/30 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. Dan Swanson and Norine Hammond attended the IAA Annual Meeting and the KCFB County Dinner in Chicago. 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 – Tyler Main

Young Farmers met on December 21

for their December Meeting and Elections. Brandon Hall was elected to replace Tyler Main as Young Farmer Chair.

PrimeTimers – Hailey Hennenfent

The PrimeTimers met on November 21 for their Holiday Meal at PZ's. The PrimeTimers Program of Work planning meeting is scheduled for January 16 at Noon at the Agri Center.

Foundation – Hailey Hennenfent

The Foundation Board met on November 28 for their quarterly meeting and approved their 2024 budget. On September 1, KCFB Foundation released the Agriculture in the Community Grant and has awarded the first quarterly grants to ROWVA FFA to expand their horticulture unit and to Knoxville FFA for their extra lab space and greenhouse.

KAC – Hailey Hennenfent

The Knox Agri Center met on November 28 for their quarterly meeting and approved their 2024 budget. 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.

John Block has accepted the speaking invitation for the KCFB Annual Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Rent for the University of Illinois Extension office was discussed.

The KCFB Constitution and Bylaws were updated and approved.

KCFB Board Attendance 2023

	October	November	December
Beard, Jennifer	P	P	P
Bollivar, Jason	P	P	P
Courson, Dustin	A	A	P
DeSutter, Drew	P	P	P
Emken, Kurt	P	P	P
Emmons, Rob	P	P	P
Engel, Lori	P	P	P
Goedeke, Phil	P	P	P
Grady, Jeff	P	A	P
Link, Aaron	A	P	P
Link, Cory	A	A	A
McCormick, Joel	P	P	P
Nelson, Brian	P	P	P
O'Connor, Tom	P	P	P
Shea, Damon	A	A	A
Stevens, Monica	A	P	P
Underwood, Kyle	P	P	P

(P) Present

(A) Absent

(C) Cancelled

AGENT SPOTLIGHT



Name: John Ryner
Years with COUNTRY: 25 years
Office Address: 180 S Soangetaha Rd, Ste 103, Galesburg, IL 61401
Galesburg Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30 (Evenings and Saturday by appointment)
Abingdon, IL 61410 Hours: Monday 12:00-4:30 pm; Thursday 8:00 am-12:30 pm (or by appointment)
Phone: Galesburg Office: 309-342-1625, Cell Phone: 309-335-7893
eMail Address: john.ryner@countryfinancial.com
Family: Wife, Cathy. Sons, Jordan, Joshua, Rodel, Jonas, Jannus.
Education: 1987 Bachelor of Science in Agri-Business from Truman State University, Kirksville, MO
Designations: Investment Solutions Representative
Awards: Four-time All American and Ten-time All Star recipient; Honor Roll recipient
Mission Statement: While adhering to the Golden Rule, I promise to give the most appropriate insurance recommendations suitable to my clients' needs and provide the best personal service every client deserves.



Our resolution is to help you meet your goals

We'll be with you every step of the way as we move through 2024.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| John Ryner
309-342-1607 | Doug Atwater
309-948-7943 | Jeremy Kleine
309-342-3177 |
| Michael White
309-342-3177 | Patrick Young
309-342-5316 | Ed Johnson
309-342-1646 |
| Joe Youngman
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309-686-7050 | | |

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1020-561HC_B_13581-12/21/2023

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Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga to Headline Women in Agriculture Conference

The Women in Agriculture Conference committee is excited for the 2024, Women in Agriculture Conference. Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga will headline for the annual Women in Agriculture Conference in Rock Island on Friday, March 22, 2024. Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga is a Professor of Agribusiness in Agribusiness in the Regina Roth Applied Agricultural and Food Studies Department at Morningside University since August 2018. Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga's research on Gender Assessment of the Agricultural Sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2012 helped her understand that the fight against hunger and malnutrition of one widow and her children.

Leader Tony McCombie will be the featured mid-day speaker. In January 2023 Leader McCombie began her fourth term of office as State Representative and first term as Leader of the House. She is also the first woman to serve as House Republican Leader

in Illinois. Please join Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton and House Leader Tony McCombie for a listening session.

Closing out the conference is Annaliese Wegner. Also known as Modern-day Farm Chick, is a dairy farmer, mother, wife and AGvocate. Through social media, speaking, workshops, retreats and events, Annaliese helps others in agriculture effectively share their farm story in an effort to bridge the gap from farm to table.

The conference will host a variety of breakout sessions with topics including aquaponics, landowner rights, tax law and planning, local food markets, and mental health on the farm just to name a few.

Included in the day is an exhibit area, with many businesses and organizations offering materials, promotional items, and give-away drawings, a breakfast and luncheon buffet and mid-day snack break. Conference cost prior to February 29 is \$70. March 1 through

March 15 the cost is \$90. Registrations taken March 16 through the day of the conference will cost \$100. If paying by check registration and payment must be received by February 29, 2024. Registration the day of the conference begins at 8am. To pre-register, contact any sponsoring Illinois County Farm

Bureaus or register online at womeninagricultureconference.com.

Pre-registration for the event begins on January 8, 2024. More details can be found at womeninagricultureconference.com. This Conference is sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women in Agriculture Conference Committee.

Recipe of the Month Cheesy Baked Tortellini Casserole with Meat Sauce

Ingredients:

- 1 (20 oz) package of refrigerated or frozen cheese tortellini
- 1 lb ground beef
- 1 (24 oz) jar of pasta sauce
- 8 oz cream cheese, cubed
- 1-2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- ½ cup grated or shredded parmesan cheese
- Seasoning to taste



Instructions:

1. Cook the pasta a la dente according to the package directions; drain and set aside.
2. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and grease a 9x13 baking dish.
3. In a large skillet, brown the ground beef with the seasoning of your choice (salt, pepper, garlic powder, & Italian seasoning).
4. Remove the excess grease from the browned beef and then stir in pasta sauce and cream cheese. Simmer for a few minutes until the sauce is well incorporated.
5. Gently toss your cooked tortellini in with the sauce mixture and then pour it into your casserole dish; sprinkle with shredded mozzarella and parmesan.
6. Bake uncovered for about 20 minutes. Switch the oven to broil and continue baking for an additional 2-3 minutes or until cheese starts to brown.
7. Enjoy with garlic bread, salad and/or veggies!

Health on the Farm

By the Knox County Health Department



January Is Radon Awareness Month

January is National Radon Action Month, and the Knox County Health Department is urging everyone to help save lives by testing their home for radon and mitigate if elevated levels are detected. The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety ranks Knox County at high potential risk for radon.

Radon is a naturally occurring, radioactive gas formed from the natural decay of uranium. Radon is found in rock, soil, and water. While radon in outdoor air poses a relatively minimal risk to human health, it can enter homes from surrounding soil and become a health hazard inside homes or buildings. According to the American Lung Association, radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S.

“Because you cannot see, taste, or smell radon, people often are unaware that this silent killer could be in their homes. Testing for radon and reducing

elevated levels is important and could save your life or the lives of your loved ones,” states Assistant Administrator Wil Hayes. Luckily, it is easy to test for radon. Radon can enter a home naturally through the ground and into the air. It can leak through cracks in solid floors, construction joints, walls, gaps in suspended floors, gaps in service pipes, cavities inside walls, sump pump pits, and through your water supply. Everyone is encouraged to test their home for radon.

The Knox County Health Department sells radon-testing kits for \$15. Testing is the only way of knowing if your home has radon.

If you would like to purchase a radon test kit or want more information about radon, please contact the Knox County Health Department at 309-344-2224 or go online to our website at www.knox-countyhealth.org.



Call us to get started
309-344-2224



Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP)

Offers free mammograms, breast exams, pelvic exams and Pap tests to eligible women

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM IF:

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- YOU LIVE IN KNOX, WARREN OR HENDERSON COUNTY
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Knox County Agriculture Visits Chicago Adopt A School Classrooms

Each year teachers in the Chicago area are offered the opportunity to be adopted by an AITC coordinator or FFA chapter. For more than 10 years, Knox County has partnered with a school not far from Midway Airport, St. Symphorosa. For the 2023-2024 school year Kindergarten through 4th grade classrooms were adopted.

Illinois Ag in the classroom provides a seasonal packet for each teacher that includes a book, lessons, and Ag Mags. Each participating teacher receives grade level appropriate books and lessons at the beginning of the year in the form of a Welcome package, and then a Fall, Winter, and Spring packet, all connected to agriculture.

This year, Knox County AITC coordinator Mrs. Green, enlisted the help of two ROWVA FFA students in communicating with the St. Symphorosa fourth graders. Emily West, Chapter president, and Ava Johnson, Chapter Ag Ambassador, created a video explaining what happens in Knox County at harvest time. Anyone can see the video by visiting the Knox County Farm Bureau website (knoxcfb.org) and clicking on the Ag in the classroom tab.

During Annual Meeting in Chicago, members of the Knox County Farm

Bureau and two special guest speakers visited St. Symphorosa. Emily and Ava taught a lesson in third and fourth grade, and Mrs. Green met with students from kindergarten to second grade. Students learned about pumpkins, corn, soybeans, and harvest. Everyone gained something from the visit! Knox County Farm Bureau members helping with the lessons included Brandon and Tillie Hall, Brian and Sarah Neill-Nelson, Blake Hennenfent, Kim Johnson, Elise Hackett, Tyler Main, and Janelle West.

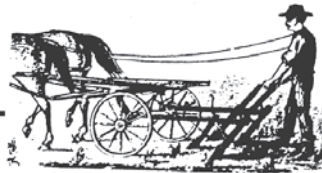
Knox County AITC is planning another in person visit in May. Emily and Ava will be sharing another video of what happens on a livestock farm. It is sure to be a learning experience.



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Looking Back



~ 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.

January 2009

Young Farmer's Host Recruitment Night

On January 2nd, approximately 25 Young Farmer's headed to the Quad Cities for their recruitment evening. The night began with everyone enjoying dinner at the River House Restaurant. Following dinner everyone headed to the iWireless Center to enjoy a fun filled evening of Quad City Flames hockey. The Quad City Flames played the Milwaukee Admirals, and through most of the game the score was tied, but the Flames managed to come through in overtime, beating the Admirals 2-1.



The Cain Family takes a quick break in the action to pose for a picture at the Quad City Flames Hockey Game!

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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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Prime Timers News

PrimeTimers will meet on January 16, 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!

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITERS OF THE MONTH

The Knox County Farm Bureau would like to recognize COUNTRY Financial Representatives, John Ryner, Mike White, and Doug Atwater as the top membership recruiters in December. Each representative signed two new Associate Members. Call your COUNTRY Representative for all your insurance and financial needs.



John Ryner



Mike White



Doug Atwater



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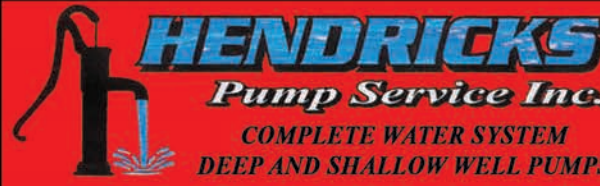
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