Knox County Farm Bureau® KNOX COUNTY Farm. Family. Food.™ 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 **USPS 297-360 NUMBER 6 JUNE 2024**



4-H Fair T-Shirts Available

The Knox County Farm Bureau is excited to once again provide t-shirts for all livestock exhibitors at the Knox County 4-H Fair. This year, we want to spread the fun to everyone by allowing families and friends to purchase the same design shirt! Exhibitors will have navy shirts and green for families and friends. Shirts are \$10 each and the order form is available on our website, www.knoxcfb.org.

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Illinois Extension

THIS PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY FUNDING FROM A FARM SAFETY GRANT PROVIDED BY ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU AND COUNTRY FINANCIAL



The Knox County Farm Bureau Young Leaders are hosting their 2nd Annual 4-H & FFA Lawnmower & Tractor Safety School & Driving Contest on June 25 at the Knox County Fairgrounds at 6PM. Pork Chops and hot dogs will be served prior to the safety school portion of the night. Young Leaders will teach participants 8-13 lawnmower safety and 14 and older tractor safety. After a brief safety test, participants will be able to take part in the lawnmower or tractor driving contest course. Please RSVP to the office at 309-342-2036 or visit our website, knoxcfb@knoxcfb.org.



June 2024 No. 6 Published Monthly by: KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU, Inc. cooperating with the ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL **ASSOCIATION** and the AMERICAN FARM BUREAU **FEDERATION**

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We reserve the right to reject any or all news material or advertisements offered to this paper. PLEASE REPORT ANY CHANGES IN YOUR ADDRESS TO OUR OFFICE

Thank You KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU Page 2



Ag for Every Classroom Free resources use agriculture to teach core subjects

Last summer, a Chicago teacher told me how excited she was to soil her undies for her students when the new school year

The second-grade teacher and her students buried cotton underwear in the school courtyard as a "Soil Your Undies" science experiment through Illinois Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program. Periodically, they dug up the undies to observe and record decomposition to measure the soil's health and microbial activity.

The teacher used agriculture as an avenue to teach science after her attendance at a Summer Agricultural Institute hosted by the Illinois Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom

take place across the state, providing pre-Kto-12 teachers an enjoyable, well-spent way Units while they gain hands-on experiencadult field trips to local farms.

The raving reviews of the institutes are no surprise given the nationally recognized success of Illinois Ag in the Classroom, which provides agriculture-based curriculum resources for free to teachers yearround. Topics of Illinois-grown pumpkins, apples, corn, soybeans, dairy, pork, pollinators and more serve as the vehicle to teach science, literature, math, STEM and social studies. In each topic area, students learn about agricultural careers, increasing awareness of the state's top employer and the overlooked job opportunities within the industry. The available curricular resources are relevant to student life and correlate to Illinois Learning Standards with various delivery options.

My favorites are the two dozen magazines called "Ag Mags" that highlight a single ag topic with vibrant images and graphics tle, backyard chickens and farm kids.

program. This summer, 40 institutes will that benefit readers of any age. Double-sided classroom posters turn from themes of apples to agriculture's part in football. Lesson plans to earn required Professional Development have students making ice cream in a bag and grinding wheat to make flour. Digital resources, receive free teaching materials and take es work well with Chromebooks or smart boards. Translations in Spanish and French allow materials to reach more students.

June 2024

Accessibility to resources gives Illinois Ag in the Classroom its edge. Materials are free online and through local county Farm Bureaus, which employ county coordinators to manage distribution of materials and even provide no-cost, in-classroom presentations. This valuable classroom resource is a concept to embrace: Let's use Illinois' No. 1 industry of agriculture to understand the food, fiber and energy products that impact our lives, explore careers that surround us and teach core subjects in engaging ways - whether through pumpkins, pollinators, corn, cows or under-

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in West-Central Illinois, where they grow corn, soybeans and hay and raise beef cat-

Getting To Know Your Farm Bureau Policy

Rural Health Care Quality and Accessibility

We support:

- 1. Increasing awareness of the health care resources available to rural popula-
- 2. Providing additional health care resources where needed.
- 3. Efforts to direct state funding to medical schools to train additional qualified physicians who will practice medicine in rural areas.
- 4. Residency programs to provide postgraduate physician and primary care training away from major metropolitan-based medical training centers.
- 5. Programs and incentives to encourage doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals to practice in rural
 - 6. The development and implementa-

programs, rural health care facilities, and alternative methods of delivering rural health

- 7. Efforts to develop mobile medical equipment and facilities to bring basic health care services to rural areas of the state.
- 8. Adequate ambulance service in all ru-
- 9. State regulations to allow the development of limited service hospitals to meet emergency care and other needs where the market will not support a traditional fullservice hospital.
- 10. Legislation that provides exemptions to new state and federal regulations for volunteer fire departments and ambulance ser-
- 11. The maximum possible use of the private sector in providing health care.
- 12. Exemptions in the two Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) rule to allow ru-

tion of programs to assess rural hospital ral ambulances to proceed to the scene of an emergency call.

- 13. Granting continuing education credit to EMTs for their time spent responding to emergency calls.
- 14. The expansion of the size and scope of the Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program (RNPSP).
- 15. An increase in state appropriations for programs that allow for recruitment, training, and retention of additional health care professionals to serve rural counties of Illinois. Patient access to Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) in rural and underserved
- 16. Capital dollars to be invested in rural and tweener hospitals.

Please see the policy book for continued Health Care policy including sections "We Will", "Farmer Mental Health", "Payment for Health Care Services" "We Oppose" and "Health Care Delivery Cost".



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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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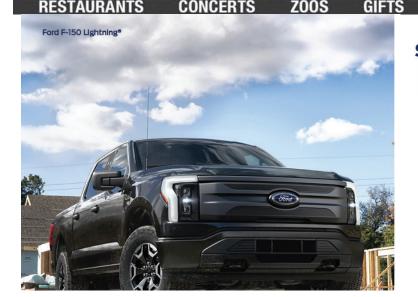
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NEWS FROM COUNTRY FINANCIAL

Page 4



AGENT SPOTLIGHT



Name: Ed Johnson Years with COUNTRY: 18

Office Address: 635 N. Seminary St., Galesburg, IL 61401 Phone: 309-342-1646

eMail Address: ed.johnson@countryfinancial.com

Family: Carie - wife; Daughters - Cora and Ellie

<u>Education</u>: Bachelor of Science - Agriculture Business, Western Illinois University

<u>Designations</u>: Investment Solutions Representative

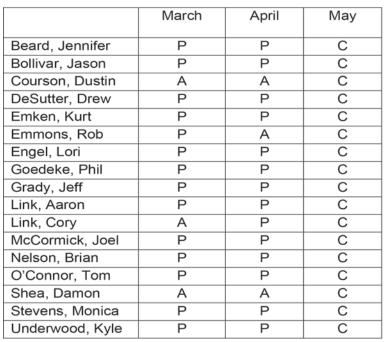
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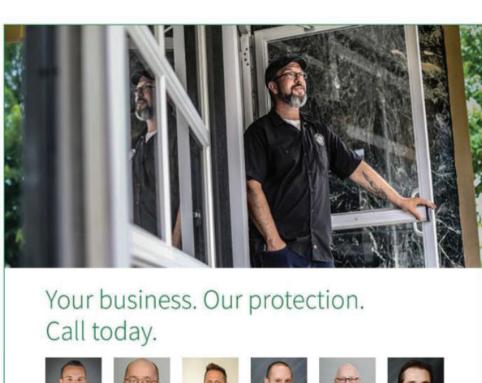
May Board Highlights

May Board of Directors Meeting was canceled.

KCFB Board Attendance 2024



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















Ed Johnson Galesburg

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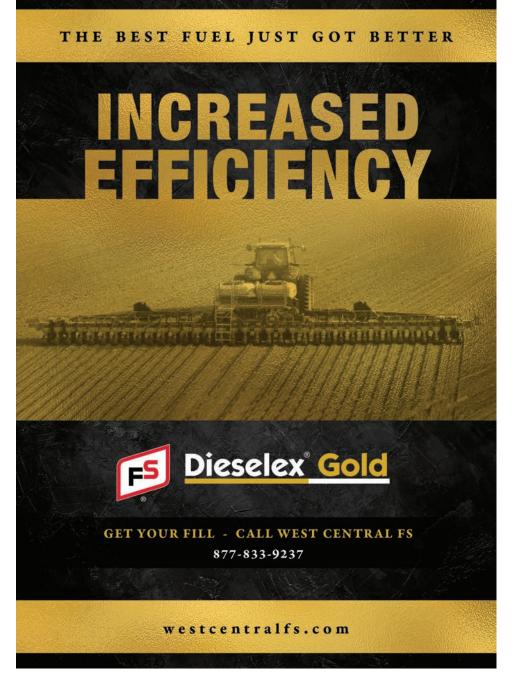
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1229-96794, 13861-6/33/2020







Cultivating Conversations Discussion

When it comes to farming, experience is often the best teacher. This June, producers can get answers to their questions farmer-to-farmer about installing edge-of-field conservation practices by connecting with local Illinois farmers with first-hand knowledge at the Cultivating Conversations panel discussion for west-central Illinois.

Four local farmers will share their experiences and valuable lessons learned along the way before answering questions about their use of edge-of-field practices in this free event. Network with other producers, learn how practices work, explore cost-share opportunities, and discover local professionals installing practices such as buffer

strips, constructed wetlands, and bioreactors. The conversation will also include a discussion about the Illinois Nutrient Loss Strategy, and strategies producers can use when talking about conservation practices with others.

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

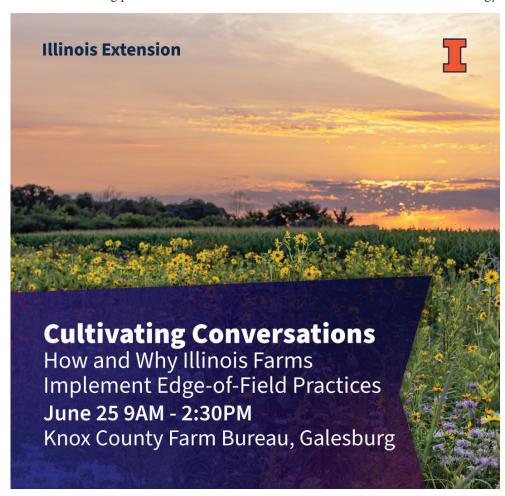
Across Illinois, farmers are working together to reduce nutrient loss from fields, which can pollute local waterways, contaminate drinking water, lower property values, hinder recreational opportunities, and harm local businesses and tourism. Explore more about preventing nutrient loss in Illinois and the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Michael & Kendra Betz Justin & Anita Davis Janet Kreig Susan & Edward Lincoln Donna Meehan Todd Fox Lindsay Sherwood

Jeffrey Wardell Sharon & Zachary Hemmrich Rachel Kennedy Barbara Bringman Raymond Meister







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Health on the Farm By the Knox County Health Department

Summer's Tiny Threat: The Ultimate Tick Defense Guide

Tick exposure has proven to be most active during summer months when weather is at its warmest. Before you begin to make your summer and travel plans, be sure to make tick bite prevention an important part of your overall planning process.

When making outdoor plans, take note of your surroundings.

- Wooded areas, trails, forests, and parks are common habitats for ticks.
- Your own backyard can even harbor ticks.
- Shrubs and low-hanging branches provide ideal spots for ticks to perch.
- While ticks are more commonly associated with rural areas, they may also be found in urban parks and gardens.
- Camping areas with wooded surroundings are also prime tick habitats.

Once aware of your surroundings, proactively prevent tick bites to safeguard yourself this summer.

- Wear Protective Clothing. Choose long sleeves, long pants, and tuck your pants into your socks or boots to create a barrier against ticks.
- When hiking or walking in wooded areas, stick to marked trails and avoid brushing against vegetation where ticks could be present.
- Take a shower within two hours of coming indoors to wash away any ticks that may be crawling on your body.
- After spending time outdoors, thoroughly check your body (Including hidden areas like armpits, groin, and scalp) for ticks. Promptly remove any ticks you find using fine-tipped tweezers.

By following these tips, you can reduce your risk of getting tick bites that could then lead to serious illnesses.

- The most common tick-borne illness in North America currently is Lyme Disease. Transmitted by black-legged ticks, also known as deer ticks, symptoms include fever, fatigue, headache, and a distinctive bull's-eye rash. If left untreated, the infection could spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system, leading to more severe symptoms and long-term complications.
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) is a bacterial infection transmitted by the American Dog tick, Rocky Mountain wood tick, or brown dog tick. Its symptoms include fever, headache, and a rash. If not treated promptly, the disease's symptoms can progress to serious complications including organ failure.
- Anaplasmosis is transmitted by the black-legged tick (deer tick) in the United States. Symptoms include fever, headaches, muscle aches, and in severe cases, respiratory failure, or neurological problems.
- Ehrlichiosis is transmitted by the lone star tick. Symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches, and in severe cases, bleeding disorders and organ failure.

The severity and complexity of these tickborne illnesses can vary. It is important to remember that early diagnosis and treatment are crucial for preventing complications. If you have been bitten by a tick and do develop any symptoms, it is important to seek medical at-



tention promptly.

For additional details regarding tick bite prevention and tickborne illnesses and prevention, feel free to visit the following websites:

- <u>www.cdc.gov/ticks/prevention/index.</u> <u>html</u>
- dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseas-
- es-and-conditions/tickborne-illnesses/ticks.html
- www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/tipsprevent-tick-bites

You can also visit the Knox County Health Department website at www.knoxcountyhealth.org or call us at 309-344-2224.







June Ag in the Classroom Update

Knox County Ag in the Classroom coordinators have been keeping busy as the school year ends. The Memorial Day parade, Ag Days at Galesburg Jr. Sr. High School and Summer Ag Institute have been at the top of the to do list.

With the help of local farmer Dale Carlson, AITC once again decorated a green wagon with red, white, and blue! Our wagon was followed by Dale's son, Tim, and great grandson Jack. It was a great day for a parade. Teresa Sanford-Shipplett and Mrs. Green enjoyed a ride in the wagon too. Granddaughter Stella (Green) enjoyed throwing candy to all the parade watchers.

Ag Day at GHS was a big success, even though a rain date needed to be used for the event. Though animals are always of interest, students also learned about dairy cows and corn from Mrs. Green and Emily West, ROWVA FFA graduate. West Central FS operated drones, Oneida-Wataga Volunteer Fire talked with students, and Birkey's brought some equipment. It was a great variety of participants all representing agriculture.

Summer Ag Institute will be held on June 11-12 for professional development credit. Ag in the Classroom will provide make and take activities and Illinois Ag in the Classroom will share information about the program. Trips to local farms to see agriculture up close will also be a focus.



AITC wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable summer!

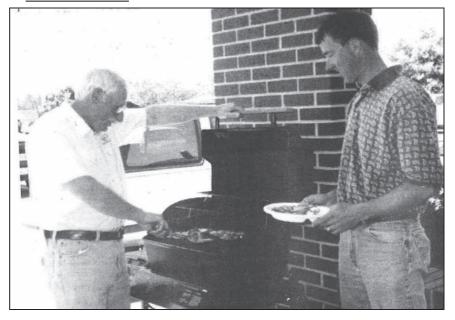




Looking Back



June 1998



Jim Link, left, and Kevin Erickson, right, cooked pork chops for the Country Companies on June 2 to kick off the June Membership Drive. Country Companies agents throughout the region are competing during the month of June to sign new Farm Bureau members in the annual drive. Jim Link serves as the Membership Committee Chairman and Kevin Erickson is a committee member, both of them are on the Farm Bureau board of directors.

PrimeTimers News

PrimeTimers will meet on June 18, 2024, at noon for a potluck meal at the office. Young Farmer Members who attended last year's Ag Industry Tour to California will be presenting on their trip. 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!



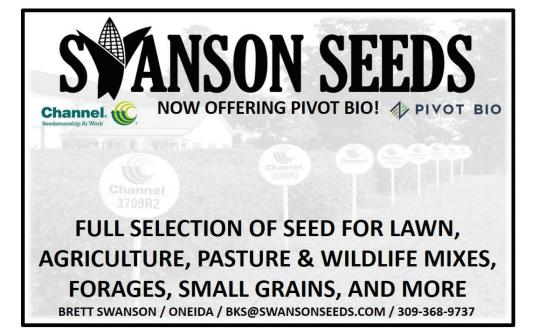
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MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER OF THE MONTH

The Knox County Farm Bureau would like to recognize COUNTRY Financial Representative, Patrick Young as the top membership recruiter in May. Patrick signed one new Associate Member and one new Voting Member. Call your COUNTRY Representative 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.

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FOR SALE: Mayrath Portable Auger - 28 ft., 6 in., 540 PTO - \$500 OBO. Call (309) 875-3240.

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FOR SALE: 2014 Chrysler Town & Country Handicap Van - 39,000 miles. Comes with 3 wheel handicap scooter. \$35,000 OBO - or \$33,000 without scooter. Call (309) 368-0561

FOR SALE: 3 Point Cultivator with 7 shovels. Maximum 60 in. width. \$125.00. Call or Text (309) 371-2305

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FOR SALE: AM 283-5 Krone Hay Disc Mower, 9ft. Cut. \$3,500.00. Call (309) 221-

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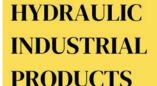
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