VOL. CIII USPS 297-360 June 2025 **NUMBER 6**

2025 4-H Fair T-Shirts

We are excited to once again offer shirts that match the shirts that the Knox County Farm Bureau is providing to all Knox County 4-H Livestock Exhibitors. This year, shirts will be charcoal gray and may vary from the color shown depending on availability at the time of printing.

Shirts can be picked up on Sunday, July 13 at the Knox County Fairgrounds at weighin. Horse exhibitor shirts will be distributed at the Horse Show on July 6. ORDERS ARE DUE JUNE 26 BY 4:00PM and the link is available at www. knoxcfb.org



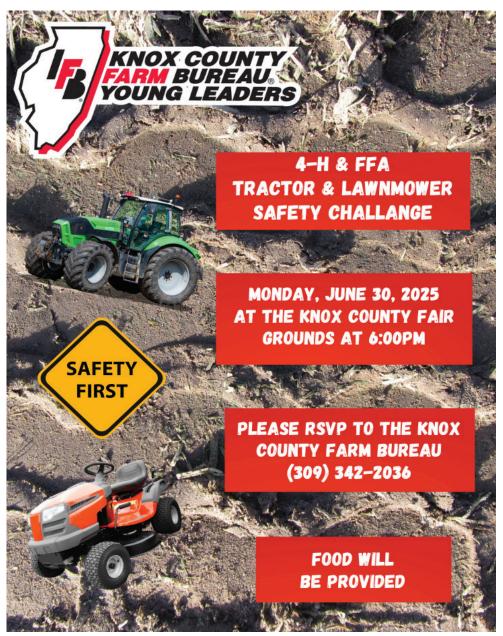
Cover Crop Seed Assistance Program

To wrap up the Knox County Farm Bureau West Central FS. The \$250 incentive will purchased from. be awarded on a first come first serve baverified.

Awardee agrees to provide data (such as crop seed is required to participate. acreage of cover crops, seed mix type, use, etc.) and have name publicized in communications about the project and grant. Cover crop seed mix must be purchased from West Central FS from July 1- August 1. Knox County Farm Bureau voting membership must be active as of August 31, 2025.

Members can begin applying for this pro-Young Farmers Cover Crop Project, the gram on June 16 at 10AM by completing the Illinois Farm Bureau Nutrient Stewardship form on our website www.knoxcfb.org, or by Grant will allow the Knox County Farm calling the office at 309-342-2036 and provid-Bureau to award seed assistance grants to 25 ing your name, farm name, phone number, Knox County Farm Bureau Members who email, Farm Bureau membership number, purchase and plant cover crop seed from and West Central FS location seed will be

Current and former Cover Crop Project sis, after membership and seed purchase is participants are not eligible to participate. A minimum purchase of \$500 worth of cover



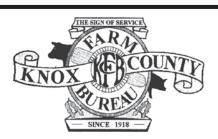


Rural Development Grant

At the May Board Meeting of the Knox County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, members of the Williamsfield Fire Protection District (WFPD) joined Directors for dinner and to accept the Illinois Farm Bureau Rural Development Grant. Out of 128 applications, WFPD application was chosen. The grant will allow them to upgrade communications in their district. New radios will be purchased that will have multi-band capabilities, allowing for direct communication between the WFPD in Knox County and 911 dispatch and other fire departments in Peoria County. Communication is currently done by a combination of radios using different systems and telephone calls, which has safety and operational concerns.

WDPD Board members Dustin Courson, Michael Gibbs, and Lyle R. Galbreath attended to accept the check. Also pictured are members of the Knox County Farm Bureau Board of Directors on behalf of the Illinois Farm Bureau Rural Development Grant. Congratulations Williamsfield Fire Protection District!

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

Thank You KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU



Dairy defines days, life moments

My day starts with Greek yogurt, fresh berries and a dash of Cheerios on top. It sometimes ends with the same or the richness of milk-based oatmeal. Cottage cheese mixed with firm, sweet red grapes made my tractor lunch box almost daily this spring. And my fridge always holds fresh-shredded cheese, sour cream, and a variety of milks from skim to whole (plus the occasional chocolate) to satisfy the household extremes and my husband in between.

June represents the month to raise an icecold glass of milk in salute to dairy farmers as we celebrate National Dairy Month and dairy as a long-time staple of the American diet. Less than a 0.5% of the American population today raises the dairy cows that produce milk to feed the 99.5% of us Americans who don't own them.

More than 96% of those dairy farms are family owned and represent some of the most-committed farm families who rely on technology or hired help to get a break. Dairy cows need milked two to three times a day regardless of holidays, weekends and vacation schedules. Thankfully, advancements in technology provide labor flexibility on some dairy farms where robots milk cows and automated systems deliver feed. Families also have enhanced cow comfort over the years from better bedding for joint health to barnmounted brushes that give backrubs. Some farmers even use collars similar to a human Fitbit or Apple Watch to track individual cow activity on their phones.

Yogurt may kick off my day, but dairy does for coffee shop drinkers, too. Around 90% of coffee-based café beverages are prepared with dairy products, according to the Perfect Daily Grind. This June throughout Illinois, watch for Farm Bureau presence at coffee shops as the organization brings awareness to the dairy that dominates lattes, cappuccinos, mochas and more.

While coffee is not my thing, I empathize with the craving. I'll watch flavor schedules for local ice cream shops and travel 15 to 30 minutes one way for the treat on a pleasant summer evening. Dairy defines some of life's most-cherished memories: The summernight ice cream runs. The cheese ball we make only at Christmas time. The homemade ice cream at family birthday parties. Fresh whipped cream for pumpkin pie at Thanksgiving. And I can taste and feel the milk-logged Oreos I'd soak in a cup of milk as a snack after school as a kid.

About the author: Joanie Stiers farms with her family in Knox County, where they raise corn, soybeans, hay, beef cattle, backyard chickens and farmkids.

Getting To Know Your Farm Bureau Policy

Under 37. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT Nuisance Programs

We support:

1. A wildlife nuisance permit program that embodies three elements to control nuisance animals causing damage to crops and property. Those elements are:

A. Harvest time and management flexibility.

B. Transferability of permits.

C. Sufficient permits to reduce property

2. Assisting members in utilizing the law which provides for an IDNR permit to control wildlife where it is causing damage to

crops or property.

- 3. The American Farm Bureau Federation in seeking landowner authority to control federally regulated wildlife that is creating a nuisance.
- 4. Year-round usage of IDNR issued nuisance permits.

Former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John Block Releases Book Chronicling a Life of Public Service and Farming

Former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John Block is proud to announce the release of his new book, Pigs Politics, Persistence: The Life and Legacy of John "Jack" Block. This book offers an in-depth look at his distinguished career in agriculture, government, and public service. This compelling memoir provides readers with firsthand insights into Block's experiences as an Illinois farmer, policymaker, and national leader who played a pivotal role in shaping modern American agriculture.

John Block served as the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture from 1981 to 1986 under President Ronald Reagan. His tenure was marked by significant advancements and challenges in agricultural policy such as the U.S. grain embargo, the Conservation Reserve Program, and the 1980s farm

crisis. A lifelong advocate for farmers, Block's leadership continues to influence agricultural policy today. His new book shares personal stories, policy battles, and reflections on the evolution of American farming.

"This book is a testament to the resilience of America's farmers and the importance of sound agricultural policy," said Block. "I hope readers gain a deeper appreciation for the challenges and triumphs of those who dedicate their lives to feeding

In addition to his time in government, Block has remained active in agriculture and public service, continuing to be a respected voice on issues impacting rural America. His book offers an insider's perspective on the challenges faced by farmers and policymakers alike.

For more information about the book or to order a physical copy, visit the book's website - Secretary Block.com. The e-book version is available to purchase on Amazon Books and Apple Books. An audiobook version is available on Audible and Apple Books, voiced by farm broadcasters and government colleagues.

From Colleen Callahan Consultancy

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

David Lynn

coving sool

Stay tuned to the website, Facebook page, and July Bulletin for the date for our Fire Extinguisher Inspection Program!



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



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2022 Wall Maps

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First time users: Click Register button Membership Number, do not include any letters



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KCFB Board Attendance 2025

	March	April	May
Beard, Jennifer	Р	С	Α
Bollivar, Jason	Р	С	Р
Courson, Dustin	Α	С	Р
DeSutter, Drew	Р	С	Р
Eagle, Tim	Р	С	Р
Emken, Kurt	Α	С	Р
Emmons, Rob	Р	С	А
Engel, Lori	Р	С	Р
Erickson, Dan	Р	С	Р
Erickson, Michelle	Р	С	A
Goedeke, Phil	Р	С	Р
Grady, Jeff	Р	С	A
Hall, Brandon	Р	С	Р
Link, Aaron	Р	С	Р
Link, Cory	Α	С	Α
Main, Jason	Р	С	Р
McCormick, Joel	Р	С	Р
Nelson, Brian	Р	С	Р
Underwood, Kyle	Р	С	А

(P) Present

- (A) Absent
- (C) Cancelled
- (V) Virtual

May KCFB Board Highlights

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Knox County Farm Bureau was held on May 15.

Education & Outreach - Michelle Erickson

Will begin working with Marketing for t-shirt designs for the 4-H Fair Livestock exhibitors.

Farm Business - Brian Nelson

2022 Plat Books are \$30 for members and \$50 for wall maps for members. A 2026 Plat Book will be completed in 2025 and be for sale on December 1, 2025. Steve Johnson Program will be June 17 at 7PM at the Knox Agri Center.

Government and Policy - Kyle Underwood

The Allies in Ag Resolution was passed unanimously by the Knox County Board on March 26. Legislative Luncheon was held March 31 at Noon at Cherry Street. Travis Weaver, Dan Swanson, Scott Erickson and Annie Hewitt with Neil Anderson's office attended. Brandon Hall & Joanie Stiers attended the IFB Leaders to Washington trip at the end of March. May be connecting with a new Adopted Legislator soon.

Member Relations – Joel McCormick

The 2025 Quota Program is threefold: Engagement- submit programs in all 8 CAE Categories; Retention- attain a certain percentage of membership quota - Knox County needs 771 members by July 31, 2025; Growth- Achieve a 3+ gain of MM/PM Members - Knox County needs 842 members. Will begin working with Marketing for t-shirt designs for the 4-H Fair Livestock exhibitors. Should receive order form for pork



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Young Farmers - Brandon Hall

Young Farmers met on March 31. An update was provided on the Nutrient Stewardship Grant. A booklet is being compiled of all the soil sampling results with information on each township. A cover crop seed assistance program will be announced

PrimeTimers - Hailey Hennenfent

The PrimeTimers met on April 15 at Noon at the KAC for a potluck and presentation on Fosters Voice. The next meeting will be May 20 with a potluck and presentation on syrup. The following meeting will be on June 17. PrimeTimers is always looking for new members, 55+.

Foundation - Hailey Hennenfent

The KCFB Foundation met on February 25 and went over 14 scholarship applications. Scholarship winners have been contacted and will be announced in May. A summer intern will be announced soon. The Agriculture in the Community Grant will be available again in 2025 with applications open quarterly. The next quarter applications are due August 1. The next KCFB Foundation Meeting is on May 27.

KAC - Hailey Hennenfent

The new plaque for the Meritorious Service to Ag Award has been hung and all names have been updated. The Spring Clean Up Day for the Knox Agri Center was for March 24. Volunteers helped lay new mulch, trim trees, clean out closets and air vents and much more. A huge thank you to those volunteers! The next Knox Agri Center Board Meeting is on May 27.

OLD BUSINESS

Two vacancies remain on the KCFB Board of Directors in District 2 and 3.

NEW BUSINESS

The KCFB Board approved our summer COUNTRY Agent Appreciation Contest.

The KCFB Board approved participating in the IFB Financial Study.

Sidney Stiers will be contacted about being the keynote speaker for the KCFB Annual Meeting.

The KCFB Board approved a resolution to accept the conveyance of title of the Knox County Extension and 4-H Facilities, Inc's property as a gift.

The KCFB Board approved the new Extension lease effective July 1, 2025.

Meet Knox County Farm Bureau **Board Member, Kurt Emken!**

Meet Knox County Farm Bureau Board Member, Kurt Emken! Kurt has been on the Board of Directors since 2020. Learn more about Kurt here:

Tell us a little bit about you and your family. I have been involved in agriculture my whole life. I grew up on a family farm near Maquon, IL. I have farmed, worked in Ag Retail for 20 years, and currently work for Bayer Crop Science as a field sales rep. I farm with my brother and uncle as well. I've been married to Lori for 37 years and have 3 adult children. Tyler 36, Erin 30, and Bayli 28. Tyler is married to Alysse and Bayli is married to Colten. Erin is single. All are close by, and we are blessed. No grandchildren yet.

Where are you from? I currently live near Yates City IL and have lived at our farm for 34 years.

What do you love most about agriculture? I have spent the majority of my career with retail sellers and farmers. My greatest enjoyment is helping retailers and farmers solve problems and grow better and more profitable crops. Whether it's picking hybrids or managing weeds, I am always striving to do what's best for my customers. I also try new things on my farm and share that knowledge.

Why did you join the Knox County Farm Bureau? The agriculture community is small these days. We need a voice to advocate for Ag. I joined to help us be heard by our urban counterparts.

Favorite part of being on the Board of **Directors?** The people you meet. The work we do for the county and our communities.

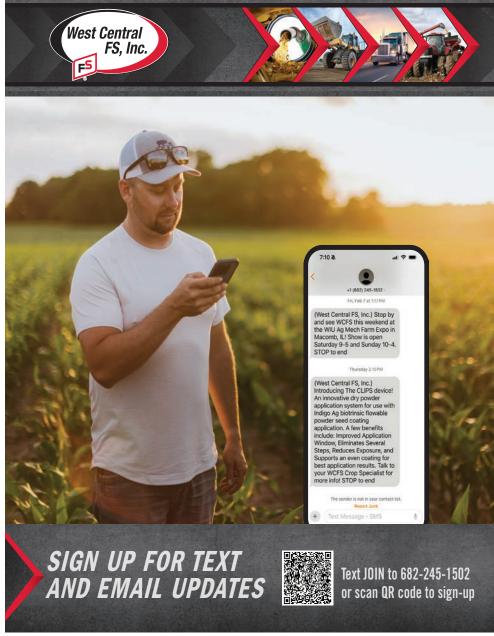
What are your hobbies and interests?



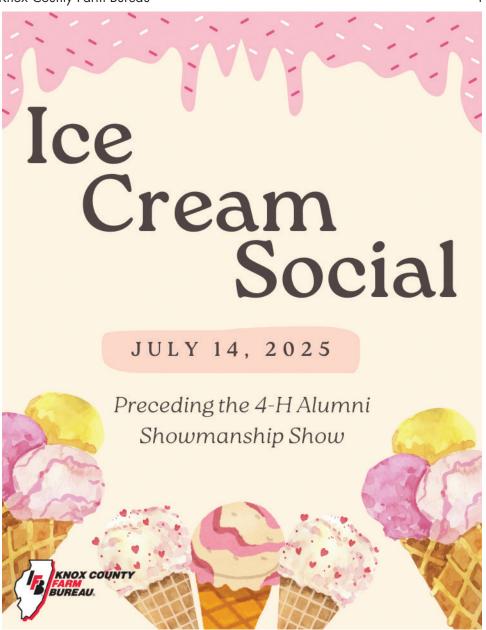
Kurt Emken

Restoring tractors, trucks and cars. I like to fix things that are broken. I like to paint. My time in my workshop is some of my most enjoyable time. Spending time with family is very important to me as well.

What is something people might not know about you? I belong to the Studebaker Drivers Club. I have always had an interest in Studebaker cars and trucks. I currently have one that my grandfather owned. I restored it a couple years ago and have shown it at national Studebaker shows.



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IDOA To Offer Freee Recycling Program For Agrichemical Containers

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) encourages farmers and agrichemical facilities to take part in a free agrichemical container recycling program. Beginning in the middle of July and continuing into August, sites throughout the state will collect containers that are recycled to make shipping pallets.

"This program grows in popularity each year because it provides a safe and convenient way for farmers and agrichemical facilities to dispose of empty pesticide containers," said IDOA Director Jerry Costello II. "Repurposing the plastic into pallets is far better for the environment than shipping them off to landfills."

Metal and household pesticide containers are not eligible for the recycling program. Collection sites will accept only high-density polyethylene, #2 plastic agrichemical containers that are clean and dry. Participants are responsible for rinsing them and removing all caps, valves, metal, labels, booklets and foil seals. Participants are responsible for cutting off the top and bottom of plastic drums and cutting the side of the drum from top to bottom.

Mini-Bulk and Intermediate Bulk containers can be recycled via the Department's container recycling program by making the following container preparations: Mini Bulk (cage) containers are required to be cut into separate top, bottom and sides, fittings discarded (no metal, no wood) (6 slabs of plastic). Intermediate Bulk Containers are to be cut in to one-foot square pieces, fittings discarded (no metal, no wood). G. Phillips and Sons, LLC is offering services to pick up MiniBulk and Intermediate Bulk containers throughout the year. Please contact them at 678-232-6047 to learn more.

The program is a cooperative venture between IDOA, Agriculture Container Recycling Council, GROWMARK, Inc., Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association, G. Phillips and Sons, LLC, Illinois Farm Bureau, and University of Illinois Extension.

To obtain a free brochure about the program, call IDOA toll free at 1-800-641-3934.

Single Day Collection Sites: AM Site hours are 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

PM Site hours are 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. 7/29 PM Nutrien Ag Sol, Inc. Galesburg/Knox County Michael Bern (309) 299-6403

Recipe of the Month – Strawberry Pretzel Salad Dip

Ingredients:

- 8 oz cream cheese, room temperature
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 3 Tbsp. honey
- tsp. Kosher salt
- ¼ cup seedless strawberry jelly
- 1 tsp. water
- 1-¼ cup diced strawberries divided
- Snack Factory® Pretzel Crisps®



Instructions:

- 1. In a large bowl, using a hand mixer, beat cream cheese, greek yogurt, honey and salt together until smooth and fluffy. Chill in the refrigerator for 10-15 minutes.
- Place the jelly and water in a small saucepan set over low heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until sauce has thinned and comes to a rapid simmer. Remove from heat and allow to cool.
- 3. Once the dip has chilled, fold in ¾ cup diced strawberries. Place in a serving dish and, with the back of a spoon, smooth out the top of the dip. Spoon the cooled sauce onto the middle of the dip. Spread from the center, leaving a ¾-inch edge. Top with the remaining diced berries placed in the center of the sauce and serve with Pretzel Crisps®.

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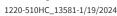


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Health on the Farm

By the Knox County Health Department



Encourage the men in your life to take care of their health. June is Men's Health Awareness Month. It's a time to focus on the importance of regular checkups, healthy lifestyle choices, and open conversations about mental and physical health. Men's health issues have an impact on everyone in their life, not just themselves. During Men's Health Month, the Knox County Health Department and Knox Community Health Center encourages everyone to share something important with the men who matter most to them: knowledge that could help them stay healthy and live longer.

A close connection with a primary care provider is one of the best things we can do for our health and happiness. The Knox Community Health Center's providers, Dr. Robert Wagner, MD-Medical Director, and Hannah Erickson, FNP-BC, are accepting new patients and walk-in appointments.

Regular checkups ensure you get the care you need, which include:

Health Screenings – You may feel fine, and you may be healthy. Or there could be a silent health prob-

lem, like high blood pressure, and you might not even know it. Having a yearly physical is an important part of staying healthy. They allow for early symptom detection of chronic disease or provide the opportunity for providers to discuss recommendations for continued good health.

Vaccines – You could be due for a routine vaccine, such as Tetanus. If you are over the age of 50, it's time for a shingles shot. Getting recommended vaccines can help you avoid painful or serious diseases and let you spend more time doing what you love.

Cancer Screenings – Adult men should plan to get screened for prostate and colon cancer. Your provider can help determine when these should start and at what frequency.

Cholesterol Test – Depending on age and risk factors, some men may need their cholesterol checked.

Advice for a Healthy Life – Your primary care provider can discuss everything from eating right and exercising, to the feelings of anxiety and depression. It is recommended that men incorporate 30 minutes of exercise 5 times a week into their

Lyme Disease

Symptoms: Rash - often shaped like a bull's-eye, fever, chills, headache, fatigue, muscle aches, joint swelling and pain, facial droop, heart palpitations/irregular heart beat, confusion. Symptoms may appear from a few days to 3 months or more after exposure.

Transmission: Spread through the bite of infected ticks. *Immature ticks called nymphs, (the size of a poppy seed), infect most humans because they go undetected.*

Diagnosis: Clinical suspicion and a blood test - may be negative if done too early. If negative, repeat testing should be done 2-4 weeks after the 1st test.

Treatment: Antibiotics such as Doxycycline

Prevention: Avoid tick bites - avoid wooded brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter; walk in the center of trails; wear light colored clothing treated with 0.5% permethrin; use EPA-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol or 2-undercanone.

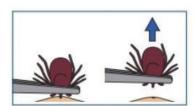
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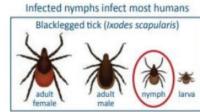


Lyme Disease

How to remove a tick:

- Use fine-tipped tweezers; grasp tick as close to the skin's surface as possible
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure don't squeeze, twist or jerk the tick
- · Clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water
- Dispose of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, a sealed bag/container, or wrap tightly in tape

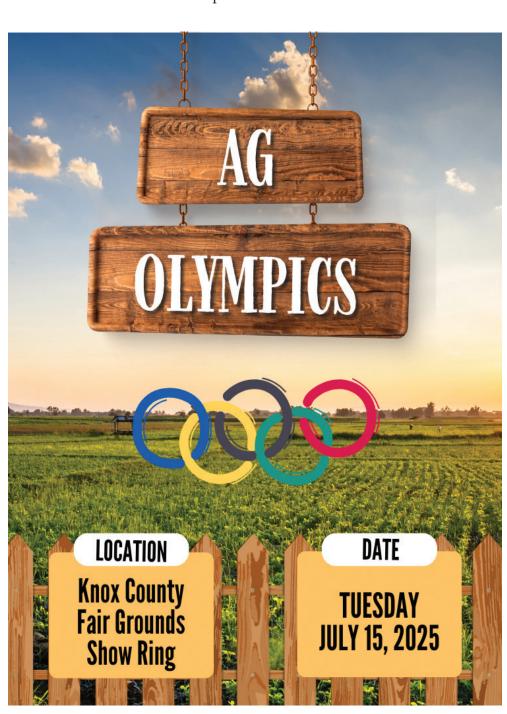




If rash develops, use ruled edge below to measure rash in inches at largest diameter

daily schedule.

Men's Health Awareness Month is to empower men to take control of their health and schedule a visit with their primary care provider. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the Knox Community Health Center at (309) 344-2225 or visit our website at www.knoxcountyhealth.org for more information on health center services.





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Looking Back

June 1998



weather at Laurel Greens on Sunday, the first hole at Laurel Greens during June 14th at their annual golf outing. the Young Farmers annual golf outing The Group had a good time despite the on June 14th. weather. Pictured, Dan Powers putts with an umbrella as David Serven looks on.



Ten Young Farmers battled the wet Jay West practices before teeing off on

PrimeTimers News

PrimeTimers met on May 20 with a potluck and presentation on local homemade syrup. The next meeting is potluck style on June 17. The following meeting is on August 19. There is no July 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!





~ 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.

WANTED: Steel Barge Wagon. Please call & leave a detailed message. (309) 344-1704

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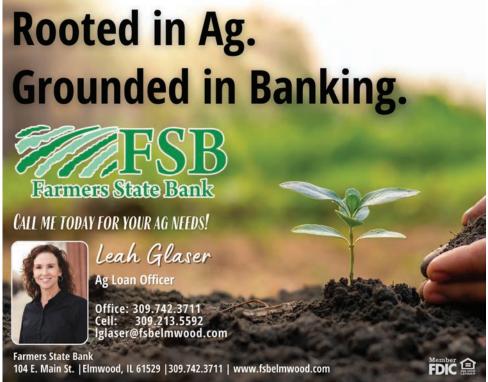
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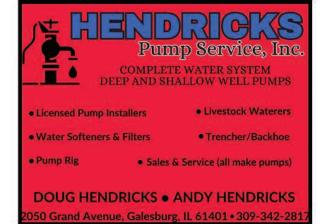
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