### Knox County Farm Bureau®



of farmers and enrich the quality of life in Knox County.

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MARCH 2024

NUMBER 3

# Tiling Project Completed at Knox County Fairgrounds

This winter, Jay and Todd West donated their time, equipment, labor and expertise to fulfill a major tiling project at the Knox County Fairgrounds. The project was completed at the west end of the grounds to help avoid standing water in the cattle barn, around the show ring area, and near the goat, sheep and swine stalls. After the generous labor donation from local volunteers, the only cost to the Fair Board was approximately \$25,000 in materials. The Knox County Fair Board is hoping they can ask for your help to reduce that cost while improving the experience of livestock exhibitors as well as the appearance of the facilities.

In 2023, the Knox County Fair brought in 148 livestock exhibitors and over 820 animal entries.

The Knox County Fair is the longest running county fair in the state of Illinois, getting ready to celebrate its 173rd year in July of 2024. This tiling project is just one of the many capital projects the Fair Board hopes to complete. Other projects include putting gutters on barns, updating the domestics buildings, and paying off the new fair office and community room. If you would like to financially support the tiling project or upcoming projects at the Knox County Fairgrounds, donations can be sent to the Knox County Fair, PO Box 204, Knoxville, IL 61448.



Above, before the tiling project and below, the project underway.



The finished project.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Michelle Fleisher Ryan Goodin



# **KCFB Hosts Legislative Luncheon**

On March 11, the Knox County Farm Bureau Board of Directors (pictured below) hosted the annual Legislative Luncheon at Cherry Street Brewing Company.

County Board Chairman Jared Hawkinson attended along with Representatives Travis Weaver, Dan Swanson and Norine Hammond as well as Senators Mike Halpin and Neil Anderson.

Directors were able to hear updates from Knox County and Springfield and ask questions and voice concerns.

Jean & Sarah Lunga Curtis & Deborah Perdue Harold & Kathryn Poland Christiane Steele Brad Anderson Janet Williams Linda & William Burford Jacob Colwell Raquel Coupland Cameron Enderlin Stanley & Jill Froelich Greg Johnson Naomie Kaziziko Gorette Kupa Alex Lybarger Timothy Robison Lukas Tinkham Katryna Weingart Sandra Williams



#### Knox County Farm Bureau

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



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## Families dominate ownership of Illinois farms

I work every day with the people who raised me. Four desks in the farm office provide space for mom, dad, brother, and sister. It's the same crew I sat with at the dinner table in the 1980s. The ones I made memories with on family vacations at theme parks with the fastest roller coasters. The quartet that spent weekend afternoons cleaning field edges and dining on pizza at sundown on Sunday nights.

Relatively speaking, we're among the mainstream. An overwhelming 96% of Illinois farms are owned and operated by families like ours, a statistic worth recognizing in this season that honors National Ag Day on March 19, 2024. Contrary to popular belief, parents, grandparents, spouses, siblings, children, cousins, aunts,

### Page 2

uncles and even in-laws make most decisions about how food, feed and fuel are grown. Not faceless corporations. That's a pleas-

ant surprise to most citizens of the state, according to surveys that show consumers trust

family-owned farms but largely believe corporations own them. Motivated to debunk the ownership myth, the Illinois Farm Bureau partnered with the state's commodity groups. Together, they launched the "We Are The 96" campaign a year ago with a big-time commercial during Super Bowl 2023.

Afterward, advertisements hit regional TV stations. Social media messaging exceeded 6 million views on Facebook and Instagram. Pizza boxes from more than 500 Illinois Casey's stores promoted the family farm message during National Pizza Month. The family ownership of farms even made appearances in Chicago movie theaters and transit stations, helping initiate the more than 30 million impressions logged with Illinois consumer audiences.

The campaign with beautiful images and videos of farm families lured looks from farmers who related to the message and nonfarmers who desired to know the decisionmakers behind their food choices. On 96% of Illinois farms, family owners select the seed, plant the crops, feed the cows, protect the land, serve their communities, teach the next generation, and hire local talent to help them get it done.

As the most-watched TV event of the year, nothing comes close to the Super Bowl. That's a striking similarity to families owning 96% of Illinois farms. Super Bowl 2024 delivered another campaign commercial touting the family ownership of farms. Keeping with tradition, three generations of our farm family gathered around the TV to watch.

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

# Getting To Know Your Farm Bureau Policy

#### **38. FARMLAND OWNERSHIP**

The type of domestic ownership of farmland, farm facilities, or farm commodities should not

infringe on the economic opportunities of the individual farmer.

We support:

1. Insisting that all foreign investors be required to conform to all local, state and federal tax laws.

2. Continuing to monitor the effect of foreign investment in agriculture, food

distribution, banking, insurance and other businesses in the United States.

3. The continuation of programs to require the reporting of foreign ownership of farmland in the United States.

4. State and national programs and policies which encourage and facilitate the ownership of farmland by farmers and those directly involved with the practice of farming.

5. Continuing to monitor the effects of the entry of non-agricultural entities into

farming or farm ownership.

6. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Government Accountability Office analyzing and reporting on foreign influence in the U.S. agricultural industry.

We oppose:

1. The preferential tax treatment of foreign investments in agricultural land under federal tax law or treaty provisions.

2. The purchase of American farmland by all foreign entities.

# KCFB Works To Advance Legislative Priorities at GALC

More than 400 Illinois Farm Bureau members gathered in Springfield for IFB's Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference (GALC) on Feb. 20. Local, state and national political leaders and legislators met with Farm Bureau leaders from across the state, including 5 members of Knox County to discuss IFB's 2024 legislative priorities.

The event culminated in a legislative reception, with nearly 80 elected officials in attendance to meet with IFB members.

"As an organization, the most powerful thing we can do is connect our members with lawmakers," said IFB President Brian Duncan. "Our members consistently make an impact on policy by giving legislators a true, boots-on-the-ground expert in agriculture."

Featured speakers included former

across the state. IFB's annual Leaders to Washington trip connects farmers with national legislators.

This year's conference, themed "Building for Success," identified obstacles agriculture may face in the coming years and how to build relationships with governmental leaders. Many breakout sessions focused on IFB's legislative priorities for the upcoming year, including a new bipartisan estate tax reform bill, stabilized labor wages, California's Proposition 12 and more. During the sessions, members had opportunities to share their perspectives with Farm Bureau leadership and staff.

"Every year, our members demonstrate both depth of knowledge on key ag topics and a desire to grow and absorb the latest information on emerging issues," said Duncan. "That's what makes GALC successful, and that's why so many key legislators go out of their way to meet and partner with our members."

WE APPRECIATE YOU.

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

Arizona U.S. Sen. Martha McSally, who was the first woman in the U.S. Air Force history to fly a fighter jet in combat and command a fighter squadron, and Kirk Bado, editor of the National Journal Hotline. Breakout sessions featured experts on topics including the active state legislative term, stabilizing the ag workforce, livestock, soil productivity and more. GALC is the annual central event around IFB's longstanding efforts to connect members and legislators. IFB's Adopt-A-Legislator program, which is more than 20 years old now, fosters long-term personal relationships between urban legislators and farmers



# 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.





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#### March 2024

COUNTRY

### NEWS FROM COUNTRY FINANCI COUNTRY **Emergency Funds and You**

We've all heard it's smart to have money set aside in an emergency fund, but what does that mean exactly?

Let's start by describing a financial emergency.

This is an unexpected situation that has an impact on your normal income or expenses. Some of the most common financial emergencies include:

- Job loss or reduced hours Sudden health problem that affects your ability to work
- Medical bills
- Natural disaster
- Divorce
- Death of a spouse .
- Significant home repair .
- Major car issue like a transmission or suspension problem

We typically don't include anticipated expenses in the category of financial emergencies. Although replacing your home's furnace or car's tires can be expensive, you can anticipate these costs based on the item's age and typical life span. These replacements should ideally be covered by your general savings and not pulled from your emergency fund.

#### How much do I need?

Experts typically recommend building an emergency fund that contains enough money to cover 3-6 months of essential expenses. We know that sounds overwhelming, so we've broken it down into five steps that will put you on the path to a well-funded emergency account:

Know your numbers. Start by identifying (or confirming) how much your necessary monthly expenses are (include rent or mortgage, utilities, insurance, car payments, food, etc.) and exclude those things you can't do without if needed (dinners out, green fees, fashion splurges).

Set your goal(s). Multiply the above number by three to determine the minimum amount you should have available and by six to establish your higher-end goal. This emergency fund should be easily accessible (commonly used accounts include savings, checking and money market).

Choose a winning mindset. Although it might seem like a bummer to eliminate a few fun expenses, remind yourself that this will make life easier when an emergency comes up. It can be

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Michael J

White

Galesburg

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a big relief to not have financial worries while dealing with an illness, household disaster or b loss

Be realistic and reward yourself. Give yourself a reasonable timeframe, as well as a do-able

savings amount. You can also reward yourself as you hit certain targets - whether that's an ice cream date or a non-monetary reward like taking a nap while your kids do the dishes.

Recognize the role of insur-

ance. In addition to the importance of having an emergency fund with enough money for 3-6 months of expenses, our local COUNTRY financial representative can help you protect your lifestyle with well-chosen insurance.

# **February Board Highlights**

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

#### Education & Outreach – Lori Engel

Adult AITC Barn Quilt Painting class by Art Defined was January 16. 29 people attended. 6 were non-members. February 13 is the Let's Do Charcuterie Class -35/35 spots filled. 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 live. 25 spots are available. The class is \$25 for members & \$35 for non-members.

#### Farm Business - Brian Nelson

2022 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. KCFB Board Legislative Luncheon is March 11 at Cherry Street at noon. Dan, Norine, Travis & Mike will be attending. The County Board has been invited.

#### Member Relations - Jeff Grady KCFB met the 2023 Quota ending

#### PrimeTimers - Hailey Hennenfent

The PrimeTimers January 16 Program of Work planning meeting was cancelled due to weather. The next meeting is February 20.

#### Foundation – Hailey Hennenfent

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

#### KAC - Hailey Hennenfent

The Agri Center has replaced 3/6 worst HVAC units in the building. The Agri Center has all new LED lighting in the building done through the Ameren rebate program.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

KCFB Annual Meeting details were discussed for 2025

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Board of Directors Policy was reviewed to cap the amount the Board will cover for the Ag Industry Tour.





with 810 MM, 17 MS, 21PM, 1,789 A Members.

Young Farmers – Brandon Hall The YF met on February 8 for their monthly meeting and set their Program of Work for 2024. FFA Acquaintance Night was cancelled January 22 due to weather. It is rescheduled for March 19. The Cover Crop Project Producers Meeting with IFB and U of I is scheduled for lunch on March 1. Invites are more information to come. Trivia Night will be held March 1 at Big Catz. 6 teams are signed up as of 2-9-2024.

KCFB Board Attendance 2023 - 202			
December	January	February	
Р	Р	Р	(P) Present
Р	Р	Р	(A) Absent
Р	A	A	
Р	Р	Р	(C) Cancelled
Р	Р	Р	
Р	Р	Р	
Р	Р	Р	1
Р	Р	Р	
Р	Р	Р	
Р	Р	Р	1
A	A	A	1
Р	Р	Р	
Р	Р	Р	1
Р	Р	Р	1
A	A	A	1
Р	A	Р	
Р	A	Р	
	December P P P P P P P P P A P P P A P A P	DecemberJanuaryPPPPPAPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPAAAPPAAPPAAPAPA	December         January         February           P         P         P           P         A         A           P         A

#### CALL YOUR FS ENERGY SPECIALIST FOR MORE INFO!

# AGENT SPOTLIGHT



Name: Jeremy Kleine Years with COUNTRY: 18 years as a financial representative; Client for 30 + years Office Address: 415 N. Henderson St., Galesburg, IL 61401 Phone: 309-342-3177 eMail Address: jeremykleine@countryfinancial.com Spouse: Molly Kleine Education: BA in Sociology from Knox College. MA in Sociology from Western Illinois University. Community Service: Sunrise Rotary International, Former YMCA Board member Designations: Investment Solutions Representative

Jeremy Kleine

Awards: All American 12 years. 1988 State Baseball Champions - Galesburg High School.

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### **Recipe of the Month** Italian Grinder Salad

#### Ingredients: Dressing -

- 1 Cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon Kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon cracked black pepper
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 2 teaspoons garlic, minced
- 3 tablespoons pepperoncini pepper liquid
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated

### Salad –

3 cups iceberg lettuce, shredded 12 ounces salami, sliced 8 ounces deli ham, sliced 8 slices provolone cheese, sliced 1/2 cup red onion, chopped 1/2 cup sliced pepperoncini peppers 1 cup grape tomatoes, halved red pepper flakes, for serving

Instructions:

1. To make the dressing, add the mayonnaise, vinegar, salt, pepper, Italian seasoning, garlic, and pepperoncini liquid to a medium bowl.

Whisk to combine, then stir in the parmesan cheese. Chill the dressing while you prepare the salad.

- 2. In a large mixing bowl, add all the prepared salad ingredients.
- 3. Pour the dressing over the salad ingredients. Gently toss the salad ingredients together with the dressing.
- 4. Garnish with red pepper flakes before serving, if desired.
- 5. Enjoy immediately!



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# March is National Nurtition Month

It's March...and do you know what that means? Yes, it is time for Spring cleaning, planting season, playing outside, but most importantly, it is time to celebrate food and National Nurtition Month.

National Nurtition Month was created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to educate the public about healthy eating

Nursing Scholarship Application Available

The Illinois Farm Bureau Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program is now accepting applications for nurse practitioner scholarships. This year, a total of 15 scholarships, each worth \$4,000, will be granted.

This scholarship program, which has been running for 32 years, aims to encourage and develop a strong pool of rural health practitioners to address primary healthcare needs in rural areas of Illinois. Recipients of the scholarships are required to practice for two years in an approved rural area within the state.

To be eligible for the scholarship, ap-

#### and help you make sound nutrition and lifestyle choices. This year's theme is "Beyond the Table," which address the farm-to-fork aspect of nutrition, from food production and distribution to navigating grocery stores and farmers markets. Here are some "Tips to help you eat right on a budget" from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

plicants must be Illinois residents and either accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program as Registered Nurses. The funding for this program is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP).

Applications can be obtained from county Farm Bureaus across the state, the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at RIMSAP.com, or by contacting Donna Gallivan, the Program Manager, at Illinois Farm Bureau, 1701 Towanda Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701. The deadline for applications is May 1.

#### Cook more, eat out less

Many foods can be prepared at home for less money and healthier.

Find a few simple, healthy recipes your family enjoys and save eating out for special occasions.

#### Plan what you are going to eat

Decide on meals and snacks before you go to the store.

Make a grocery list of what ingredients are needed, then check to see what foods you already have in the pantry.

By making a double batch will save time and extra portions can be used for lunches or meals later in the week or frozen as leftovers.

#### Watch portion sizes

Use smaller plates, bowls and glasses to help keep portions under control.

Fill your plate with half fruits and vegetables and other half with grains and protein foods. Complete the meal with a glass of milk or a serving of fat-free yogurt for dessert.

#### Focus on nutritious, low-cost foods

Make the most of your dollars by finding recipes that use the following ingredients: beans, peas, and lentils; sweet or white potatoes; eggs; peanut butter; canned salmon or tuna; grains such as oats, brown rice, barley or quinoa; and frozen or canned fruits and vegetables. Even when it is difficult to make ends meet, proper nutrition is vital for pregnant women, fathers, infants, and children. The Knox County Health Department WIC program can impact your family directly by providing nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding help, and referrals. WIC is available to **pregnant**, **postpartum**, **and breastfeeding women**, **fathers**, **infants**, **and children up to the age of 5.** Families must meet income guidelines and reside in Illinois. Please call the Knox County Health Department at 309-344- for more information.

#### Start a garden or visit a Farmers Market

A garden can be so much fun, especially for kids. They are a great affordable way to eat more vegetables and fruits.

Visit the local Farmers Markets when they start to open up.

WIC offers Farmers Market coupons to WIC participants. They coupon allows participants to get fresh fruits, vegetables, and cut herbs at local farmers' markets and roadside stands. WIC participants receive these nutritious, unprepared, locally grown foods in addition to the regular WIC food package.

For more information on National Nutrition Month visit eatright.org or for information on the WIC program please visit knoxcountyhelth.org or call 309-344-2224.



# Looking Back





#### March 1984

President Reagan saluted American Farmers at a White House breakfast March 20 and promised that the United States would be a reliable supplier of agricultural products around the world. "I tip my hat to you," the president said, sitting at the head of a table with four "Outstanding Young Farmers of America," chosen by the U.S. Jaycees.

Sitting alongside President and Mrs. Reagan were Rollie and Fran Moore of Knox County, one of the four couples named "Outstanding Young Farmers."

The Moores' children, Beth, 8, and Susan, 5, attended the breakfast at the request of the president. (This article originally appeared in the Illinois Agri-News).

### **Prime Timers News**

PrimeTimers will meet on March 19, 2024 at noon for a potluck and speaker. Tara Ruff from Tompkins State Bank will be presenting on the latest scams to be aware of and provide an update on the financial industry. 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.

FOR SALE: Antique Steel Wagon Wheels, \$35 each. Bicycles & Parts, Antique Hay Rack, Antique Seeder - Make an Offer. Call (309) 335-1316 FOR SALE: New Solid Oak 6 ft. Sliding Doors, hardware included. \$75. Call (309) 509-0474.

FOR SALE: Cover for short box

Pick-Up Truck. \$300. Call (309) 351-6490.

**FOR RENT:** Lake of the Ozarks House. Rental Date: June 28 2024 – July 5, 2024. Sleeps up to six people. Boat slip available. Boat rental available. \$900 for the week. Call (309) 368-0561.

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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### 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 February. Patrick signed five new Associate Members. Call your COUNTRY Representative for all your insurance and financial needs.







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