

Women in Agriculture Seminar - Friday, March 20th

Are you a woman who is involved in agriculture? Are you actively farming, working in the industry or married to a farmer? If so, then we have the conference for you! Join us for a one day seminar for women in agriculture.

Join over 200 women for the annual bi-state Women in Agriculture Conference on Friday, March 20th at the daylong conference at Jumer’s Casino and Hotel, 777 Jumer Drive, Rock Island. This year’s featured speaker is Dr. David Kohl, Professor Emeritus at Virginia Tech. Dr. Kohl will speak about personal family budgets/living expenses, record keeping, investing in the future, advice on forming advisory teams and much more!

The conference planning committee is offering a Thursday night dinner and conversation with Dr. Kohl. The Women in Agriculture Conference Committee would like to invite Women in Agriculture attendees and their spouses or guests to attend this evening designed just for farm couples.

The evening will begin with a social hour featuring a cash bar beginning at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by Dr. Kohl’s presentation “ Building Resiliency and Agility” . Kohl will discuss financial management and strategic factors that will position your operation and personal lives to be resilient.

Friday breakout sessions will include:

- Coalition to support Iowa Farmers: Speaker- Rita Cook, Coalition to Support Iowa Farmers

- Farm Leases: Speaker – Tim Harris, Capital Ag Property Services

- Work, Balance, Life: Speaker- Jennifer Best, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

- Consumer Dialogue vs. Producer Monologue: Speaker- Linda Olson, Illinois Farm Bureau

- Marketing “It’s What Sets You Apart” (Marketing 101) AND “Does this Marketing Plan Look Good on Me? (Marketing 201): Speaker- Cathy Ekstrand, Stewart-Peterson Group

- Vegetable Gardening: Speaker- Martha Smith, University of Illinois Extension

- Environmental Issues Facing Agriculture: Speaker- Lauren Lurkins, Illinois Farm Bureau

- Food Preservation: Canning: Speaker- Vera Stokes & Rachel Walls, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

For the 1st time ever a live “Confessions of a Farm Wife” Podcast with Holly Spangler, Emily Webel, and DeAnna Thomas will be the final wrap-up on Friday.

Friday’s conference will begin with registration and a light breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and opening comments at 8:30 a.m. Our closing session and send off should conclude by 4:00 p.m.

The cost of the Thursday evening program will be \$30 per person (spouses and guests are invited). The cost for Friday’s conference is \$50, which will include a light breakfast and a buffet luncheon. Registration materials must be received by February 28th. Any registrations received after February 28th will be \$60. Walk-ins the day of the conference will be charged \$75. Seating is limited. To register, contact the Rock Island County Farm Bureau office at (309) 736-7432 or online at www.womeninagricultureconference.com.

If you need a hotel room, Jumer’s is offering a special rate for conference participants on Thursday night. To make your reservation, call 800-477-7747 by March 6th and ask for the Women in Agriculture Conference in March 2015.

River Valley Cooperative and John Deere are Platinum sponsors and original sponsors to this conference. Conference planning committee leadership is brought to you by the Bureau, Carroll, Fulton, Henry, Knox, Lee, Mercer, McDonough, Rock Island, Stark, Warren-Henderson, and Whiteside County Farm Bureaus in Illinois as well as the Scott County Farm Bureau in Iowa. Additional support is provided by Iowa State Extension, and University of Illinois Extension, 1st Farm Credit Services, Gold Star FS /GROWMARK, COUNTRY Financial, and River Gulf Grain are also sponsors of this conference.

Dues Notice

Your County Farm Bureau® , the Illinois Farm Bureau® and COUNTRY Financial® have worked together to make it easier for associate members who are also COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company® or COUNTRY Preferred Insurance Company® customers to pay their membership dues. If your county/Illinois Farm Bureau associate membership is required by COUNTRY Financial for your personal lines policy, beginning January 2015, your annual county/Illinois Farm Bureau membership dues will be included with your insurance premium in one billing for most personal lines policies. From then on, you will only need to make one easy payment to COUNTRY Financial and we’ll take care of the rest! Adding your membership dues to the COUNTRY premium bill may change the timing of your membership dues payment. If so, you will remain a member of county/Illinois Farm Bureau during the time between your last payment year and your new payment due date.

Dues Notice!

Associate Members:

Did your paid thru date change?

Call the KCFB office at 342-2036

to get your updated membership card.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Laura Anderson, Knoxville
Michael & Ashley Anderson, Abingdon
Courtney Boydstun, Galesburg
Carol Bright, Galesburg
Stacey Crisp, Abingdon
Grant & Hannah Herrmann, Williamsfield
Eric Johnson, Maquon

Ann & Ronald Mueller, Galesburg
Adam Sampson, Galesburg
Denny Schoop, Galesburg
Karen Southard, Galesburg
Mark Southard, Galesburg
Devin Stove, Maquon
Douglas & Carol Wilson, Washington

Food Checkout Week Grocery Race was a Huge Success!

On Monday, February 16th, members from the Knox County Farm Bureau, Knox County Corn Growers Association, Knox County Pork Producers and FM 95 were at HyVee on Henderson Street in Galesburg to enjoy a friendly race for a great cause. Eric Hanson and Ted Bevenour from FM 95’s morning show raced against each other in this year’s Annual Food Checkout Week Grocery Race.

Both Eric and Ted had one other helper from the community to race with them as they took to the aisles of HyVee. Two lucky FM 95 listeners were chosen through social media contests to help Eric and Ted in the race. The first place winner received a \$100 gift card and the second place winner received a \$50 gift card to HyVee. The contestants had five minutes to collect as many items from the list as possible.

The grocery list had a unique twist to them in the fact that all items on the list contained a product of corn or pork, which earned bonus points in the final scoring! Bonus points were also given to items that were on HyVee’s fuel saver program.

Once the race concluded the items were totaled and a win-



Eric Hanson and Ted Bevenour, of FM 95, along with Rick Sandoval, Timmy Stokes and members of the Knox County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee, broadcast before the Food Checkout Week grocery cart races. Over \$300 in food was donated to the Knoxville food pantry through the grocery cart race, which took place on February 16 in conjunction with Food Checkout Week.

ner was determined. Ted’s team pulled through with the win, but the most important part of the morning was that all the food collected, which totaled over \$300, was donated to the FISH Food Pantry.

The event provided several educational elements. This year, Farm Bureau partnered with the Knox County Corn Growers to focus on corn sugar. Not only did items on the shopping list

contain corn sugar, but the promotion continued until noon with several members of the Farm Bureau and Corn Growers Association available to answer questions to consumers. Volunteers bagged groceries and gave shoppers informational handouts about corn, corn sugar, and other agricultural related items. Consumers learned the “sweet” truth about corn sugar and that a sugar is a sugar whether it

comes from corn sugar or cane sugar. All are safe and natural and your body cannot tell the difference! Additionally, corn sugar keeps our foods affordable.

In addition to the corn sugar promotion, the race also highlighted America’s safe, abundant and affordable food supply, which is made possible largely by America’s productive farmers and ranchers. According to the most recent (2009) information from the USDA’s Economic Research Service, American families and individuals spend, on average, less than 10 percent of their disposable personal income for food. Food Checkout Week is the week when measured from the start of the year, that the average American family has earned enough money to pay for all the food they will eat in a year. We focus on helping Americans learn how to stretch their grocery dollars with healthy, nutritious food. America’s farmers and ranchers are committed to producing safe, healthy and abundant food. And they share a common concern with consumers when it comes to putting nutritious meals on the table while sticking to a tight budget.

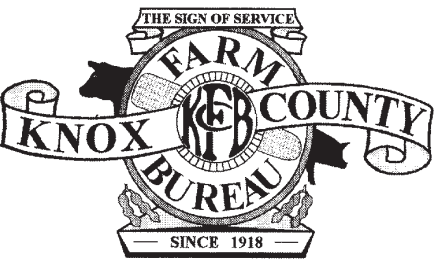
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

12	Young Farmers Meeting, KAC, 6:00 PM
15-21	Ag Week
16	Tractor Safety School, ACMcCartney, Wataga, 6:00 PM
17	PrimeTimers, E. Main St Hy-Vee, 12:00 PM
18	Marketing Club, E. Main St. Pizza Hut, 12:30 PM
19	KCFB Board Meeting, KAC, 7:00 PM
20	Women in Ag Conference, Jumer’s Hotel & Casino
26	Women’s Marketing Seminar, Alpha FS 10 AM -2:30 PM
27	KAR Meeting, KAC, 12:00 PM
30-31	Youth Conference, Springfield
APRIL	
3	Office Closed, Good Friday
9	Young Farmers Meeting, KAC, 6:00 PM
16	KCFB Board Meeting, KAC, 7:00 PM
21	PrimeTimers, KAC, 12:00 PM

We thank everyone who helped make the morning a huge success while being able to support a great cause! The race was made possible in co-operation with the Illinois Corn Marketing Board, Knox County Corn Growers, Knox County Pork Producers and Knox County Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Women’s Committees.

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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Monday thru Friday
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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



Farm Gate

by *Joanie Stiers*

4-H: Our Heads and Hearts Are In It

Our daughter deemed the new litter of pigs worthy of a joy during the opening session at Sunday School. Her 4-H pigs could be among them, she explained.

Our household's 4-H newbie signed up for – drum roll (or rather, cue a tune of doom) – 10 projects in her first year of 4-H. I talked her down from a list in the teens.

The script seems one for a like-mother, like-daughter story. We share similar interests.

Local Students attend Ag Day for Kids

On Friday, February 20th nearly 500 fourth grade students had the opportunity to visit Carl Sandburg College to participate in Ag Day for Kids, which is an event hosted by the Knox County Farm Bureau. The event was held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for students from 22 fourth grade classes from around Knox County to receive an education about agriculture.

Students rotated between eight different agricultural stations to get a better understanding of the numerous areas of the agricultural industry. Students attended sessions including: corn, soybeans, pork, beef, dairy, machine technology, soil & water, and livestock. In each session, students will see presentations and demonstrations while also having the opportunity to ask questions to the



Captain Cornelius and Pat Hennenfent discussed the importance of corn during the 2015 Ag Day for Kids Event.

Similar projects. And certainly my influence in the pig category played a role. My husband has no interest in live pigs. None. He attended pig shows when we dated merely to impress his future bride. Talk about love. Now that he has me, seasoned, grilled pork chops satisfy his needs.

Anyway, one of the coolest parts about this potential 4-H litter: One barrow resembles Big Red.

Big Red represents my favorite childhood chewing gum and the name I bestowed upon my first-ever barrow in 4-H. The named seemed fitting for a crossbred that sported a red body with white belt. Big Red ranked a good one, too. He earned a blue ribbon and first in class as a pig that originated among the market stock at Grandpa's farm. I remember the class placement vividly, likely because Grandma shrieked so loudly from the front row.

Fast forward to 2015. My brother, the family pig connoisseur, announced the newest litter's arrival with an electronic message: "Maybe Big Red reborn??" Now, it seems this story turns a bit Doublemint. But it's all in fun. This pig may not grow into the chosen barrow. Even so, it becomes part of the 4-H project story.

presenters.

Knox County Farm Bureau Agriculture Education Specialists Teresa Sanford-Shipplett and Mary Beth Bowman were the main organizers of the event. "This is at the age where they really need to understand that relationship they have with their food and where it comes from. You can't have a day without agriculture. Everything we have and everything we do is somehow related to agriculture," said Sanford-Shipplett. "It's an introduction to a lot of different parts of agriculture. It gives them a little background," Bowman said.

At the conclusion of their Ag Day for Kids experience, each student received a goody bag filled with items that will remind them of their Ag Day experience.



Scott Erickson and Steven Abels of the KCFB Young Farmers Committee discussed simple machines to over 450 fourth graders during Ag Day for Kids.

Beyond all the ripped out stitches in sewing, pans of misshapen cookies or rocketry project gone awry, we generally look back and ahead fondly. These 4-H memories and experiences shape our lives.

My daughter and I anticipated this 4-H entrance. We talked about it for years in the flower and vegetable garden. I mentioned it over batches of cookies and again during the season she asked Santa for a sewing machine. This 4-H membership carries the potential to structuralize and build greater knowledge in areas she enjoys and expresses talents. This educational aspect complements the organization's influences on citizenship, leadership, responsibility and public speaking skills.

My late aunt and long-time 4-H club leader always smiled as she retold the story of my first 4-H presentation. I demonstrated pig care and supplies with the visual aids of small-scale farm toys and Barbie boots. Our daughter's first talk and demo arrives this spring. I look forward to seeing this chapter unfold.

About the Author: Joanie Stiers, a wife, mother and farm woman, writes from rural West-Central Illinois.

Nursing Scholarship

Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program. There will be five scholarships, worth \$4,000 each, granted this year.

The scholarship program, now in its twenty third, helps encourage and develop the pool of rural health practitioners to help meet primary health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive scholarships agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be Illinois residents and be a Registered Nurse accepted or enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Funding is provided by the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program.

Applications are available at county Farm Bureaus® throughout the state, on the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program website at RIMSAP.com, or by writing Peggy Romba, Program Manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, PO Box 2901, Bloomington, IL 61702-2901. Applications are due May 1.

For additional information, contact Peggy Romba at 309-557-2350, or via e-mail at promba@iflb.org.



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Phone: 309-342-1607
eMail Address: john.ryner@countryfinancial.com
Spouse: Cathy
Education: 1987 Bachelor of Science in Agri-Business from Tru-
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¹ National Clearinghouse for Long Term Care Information, 2010.

² Policies underwritten by COUNTRY Life Insurance Company, Bloomington, Ill. Coverage varies by state. Policies include LTC-500, LTC-520, LTC-540. LTCAB and WL (OK12/04).

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Knox County Farm Bureau was held on Thursday, February 19, 2015

WOMENS COMMITTEE -
Lori Engel

The Committee helped with the Food Check-Out week grocery race at the Henderson St HyVee on February 16th. Young Farmers, Corn Growers and Pork Producers were all sponsors this year.

The committee met February 17th and made our Program of Work for the year.

YOUNG FARMERS -
Kate Lansaw

The YF program of work was set at the February meeting.

Scott Erickson and Tara Yoder will be presenting at Ag Day for Kids.

Tractor & Lawnmower Safety School will be at AC McCartney on March 16.

MEMBER RELATIONS TASK
FORCE – Tom Hoben

The Membership report was reviewed.

GOVERNMENT & POLICY TASK
FORCE – Beau Bewley

Viewpoint Survey Results were reviewed.

Tim Main, Terry Boydston, Drew DeSutter and Kate Lansaw will attend GALC.

FARM BUSINESS TASK FORCE
David S. Erickson

No report given.

EDUCATION TASK FORCE –
Jarid Cain

Ag Day for Kids is February 20th at Carl Sandburg College. Over 450 4th grade students will attend throughout the day.

PRIMETIMERS – Kate Lansaw

The committee invited Andrew Bowman on February 17th to discuss his popcorn business. Their next meeting is March 17th.

FOUNDATION – Kate Lansaw

Applications for the internship and the scholarship were due on February 16, 2015 and will be reviewed on February 24th at the Foundation meeting.

KNOX AGRI-CENTER –
Grant Strom

The next KAC meeting is February 24th.

ILLINOIS FARM FAMILIES -
Lori Engel

The next meeting is still being planned.

OLD BUSINESS

\$5,200 was raised at the Annual Meeting auction for the Ag in the Classroom program.

The new audit was easier to understand.

NEW BUSINESS

The Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference is February 25-26, 2015.

The KCFB Executive Committee will decide whether to contribute the \$1000 membership to the Knox County Partnership. The Board would like to send a representative to the meetings.

\$60 will be contributed to the Peoria Area advertising group for the IHSA basketball tournament in Peoria.

The Young Farmers, Women’s Committee and PrimeTimers’ Programs of Work were reviewed.

Join the 2015-2016
Tast Force Committees!

The Knox County Farm Bureau has four task force committees that you as members can become involved. They include: Member Relations, Education, Farm Business, and Government and Policy. The committees will meet on Thursday, March 19th at 6:00 pm at the Knox Agri Center to plan their programs for the year. Dinner will be served. If you are interested in joining a Task Force committee, please contact Kate Lansaw at the Knox county Farm Bureau at 342-2036 or e-mail knoxcfb@knoxcfb.org.

Board Meeting
Attendance
February 2015

NAME	December	January	February
Bewley, Beau	P	P	P
Boydston, Terry	P	P	P
Cain, Jarid	P	P	P
DeSutter, Jim	P	P	P
Engel, Lori	P	P	P
Erickson, David S	P	P	P
Hennenfent, Matt *	-	-	P
Hoben, Tom	P	P	A
King, Becky	P	P	A
Link, Jeff	P	P	P
Link, Nathan	P	P	A
Main, Tim	P	P	P
O’Connor, Tom *	-	-	P
Serven, Sam	P	P	P
Seiboldt, Pat	A	P	A
Stevens, Monica	P	P	P
Strom, Grant	P	P	P
Swanson, Brett	-	-	P
Webel, Joe	P	A	A
West, Todd	P	P	P
Yoder, Tara *	-	-	P

*New Director

Farmers Take Over Nashville

*Kelsey Litchfield –
2014 KCFB Summer Intern*

This past February I got the opportunity to attend American Farm Bureau Federation's FUSION Conference in Nashville, TN. This conference was in its first year as it combined National Young Farmers & Ranchers, Women's Leadership, and Promotion & Education groups into one. It was a fun filled weekend with networking opportunities, workshops, and exploring Music City!

Throughout the conference were workshops pertaining to advocacy, communications, technology, policy, Collegiate Farm Bureau, and many more. Being an agricultural communications major at the University of Illinois, I attended a few communications sessions. I learned about social media engagement, writing a blog, and how to answer tough agriculture questions. The biggest thing I learned is that we all can be a communicator for the agriculture industry no matter what career field within the industry we choose.

Of course the trip was not all business. We got to see a show at the Grand Ole Opry that featured many great artists. One night we went to the local county fairgrounds and watched ag olympics while listening to a live country band. On our final night, we line danced at the Wild Horse Saloon. It was great to experience Nashville at its fullest!

The biggest take away I got from the FUSION Conference is how important it is for farmers to tell their story. It takes a group effort of everyone in the agriculture industry to help tell the story

of how food gets from the farm to the plate. If we all work together, we can help consumers understand where their food comes from.

The attendees at the conference were challenged to help tell the farmer's story. I want to challenge the rest of you to tell your story whether it is through social media, Ag in the Classroom, farm tours, etc. With us all striving for this goal, we can engage consumers about agriculture and the food on their plate.

2015 Spring Equine Seminar to be Held March 12th

County Farm Bureaus, Black Hawk East College and U of I Extension Units in the area are again working together to provide horse enthusiast an educational Equine Seminar. This March seminar is scheduled for Thursday evening, March 12th at 6:30p.m.

The featured speaker for the evening will be Doug Bogart, Owner of Doug Bogart Reining Horses. Doug's love of working with horses began in his youth where training was a family affair. His father was a trainer known for his ability to work with "problem horses" and Doug grew up competing in barrel and pleasure classes. Doug, who has many

career reining highlights, currently trains at Schmidt Farms in Milan.

During his live demonstration, he will review training methods and perform pattern demonstrations in order to share performance strategies you can use with your horse.

The seminar will be held in the Ag Arena at Black Hawk East just south of Kewanee. Check-in will begin at 6:15. The session are free to everyone! 4-H members, FFA members, BHE students and the general public are all invited. There is no need to register! Plan to attend this wonderfully informative event.

Get to Know Your Policy: Energy

Energy is on everyone's radar - low fuel cost, energy debates in Congress over the Keystone pipeline and coal, and electric infrastructure. Agriculture has a lot to gain from these debates, but also stands to be negatively impacted if not dealt with in an appropriate way. Nevertheless, our need for energy is never ending and Americans must discuss the policy behind it.

Now is the time to review the organization's policy and provide feedback. Your Illinois Farm Bureau policy #11, Energy, provides you with the information that IFB uses to guide our involvement.

We will support:

1. Development of a national energy policy to define the energy needs of the nation and how these needs can best

be met consistent with the use of natural resources, protection of the environment, sound land use, and the welfare of the people.....

5. Aggressive promotion of programs encouraging the increased use of Illinois coal as an important component of a national energy policy and source of rural economic development.

8. The establishment of Renewable Energy Standards to encourage the development of more renewable sources for energy production.

Get involved and educated on this issue by speaking to your county Farm Bureau. You can review the entire policy by visiting www.ilfb.org.

For more information about IFB's grassroots policies, contact your county Farm Bureau.

Affordable Care Act and Succession Planning Workshop

Farmers who have questions about the Affordable Care Act and farm succession and estate planning are invited to attend a one-day workshop held Thursday, March 26, at the Illinois Farm Bureau, 1701 Towanda Ave., Bloomington.

The workshop, presented by Dr. Adam J. Kantrovich, farm management educator with Michigan State University Extension, will cover the Affordable Care Act and how it affects farms and the self-employed. Dr. Kantrovich also will cover the basics of the program and important details that are especially important to those with a large number of employees and seasonal workers, including rules of employer shared responsibility (ESR), rules for counting employees under ESR, tax considerations, rules for health insurance market place, rules of individual shared responsibility mandate and employer requirements.

Dr. Kantrovich also will discuss the importance of having a formal estate or farm succession plan in place

and items that must be considered when preparing the plan, including federal tax law, communication, documentation, business structures and the ideas of equal versus equitable.

"This workshop is an excellent opportunity for farmers to get a better handle on two very important issues affecting them and their businesses," said Diane Handley, affiliate and association manager, Illinois Farm Bureau. "The Affordable Care Act and farm succession planning are complicated issues. By offering this workshop, we hope farmers will have a chance to get their questions answered and get a plan in place to deal with both issues."

The workshop is hosted by the Illinois Specialty Growers Association and the Illinois Milk Producers' Association. There is no fee to attend the workshop, but registration is required. To register, visit www.specialtygrowers.org, by March 20, 2015. Please call Diane Handley at 309-557-2107, or email at dhandley@ilfb.org, with questions.

Lawn Mower & Tractor Safety School Scheduled

The Knox County Farm Bureau Young Farmers invite all 4-H and FFA members to attend the Lawn Mower & Tractor Safety School on Monday, March 16 at ACMcCartney's in Wataga. Registration will begin at 5:30 pm and the class will start promptly at 6:00.

This program is for all youth who may operate lawn mowers or tractors and is a prerequisite for the Lawn Mower and

Tractor Driving Contests that are held at the 4-H Fair in July.

All participants are encouraged to bring a parent, grandparent, or guardian. SMV emblems and other farm machinery areas will be discussed.

Pre-registration is not required. For more information, please contact the Knox County Farm Bureau office at 309-342-2036.



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This program is grant funded by the Illinois Green Economy Network - IGEN.
*according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
**according to "Ethanol Producer Magazine"

Biofuels Industry Growth:

- 218 ethanol plants currently in production in the U.S.**
- More than 11,000 workers employed in the biofuels industry*
- 3,700 additional workers needed over the next 10 years*

Wage Trends:

- \$26.03 Illinois median hourly salary in 2011 for a plant and system operators, with \$54,100 annual salary*
- \$25.58 national median hourly salary for a plant and system operators, with \$53,200 annual salary*



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Health on the Farm

By the Knox County Health Department



March 8-14 is Groundwater Awareness Week

Just as you check your furnace or smoke detector batteries seasonally, spring is a good season to have an annual water well checkup before the peak water use season begins.

Steps you can take to ensure your well water is safe!

Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides, and motor oil far away from your well, and maintain a "clean" zone of at least 50 feet between your well and any kennels and livestock operations.

Maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems, and chemical storage areas.

Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached. Its seal should keep out insects and rodents.

Keep your well records in a safe place. These include the construction report, and annual water well system maintenance and water testing results.

Test your water for coliform bacteria and nitrates

What are coliform bacteria?

Coliform bacteria are present in the environment and feces of all warm-blooded animals and humans. Coliform bacteria are unlikely to cause illness. However, their presence in drinking water indicates that disease-causing bacteria could be in the water system. Most bacteria that can contaminate water supplies come from the feces of humans or animals. Testing drinking water for all possible pathogens is complex, time-consuming, and

expensive.

It is easy and inexpensive to test for coliform bacteria. Coliform is used as an 'indicator.'

If testing detects coliform bacteria in a water sample, your well will need to be disinfected.

How does nitrate get into my drinking water?

The major sources of nitrates in drinking water are runoff from fertilizer use; leaking from septic tanks, sewage; and erosion of natural deposits.

How will nitrate be removed from my drinking water?

The following treatment method(s) have proven to be effective for removing nitrate to below 10 mg/L or 10 ppm: ion exchange, reverse osmosis, electrodialysis.

The Knox County Health Department recommends testing your water every year. Stop by 1361 West Fremont St. Galesburg, IL to pick up your water test kit for coliform bacteria and nitrates.

Samples must be taken on Monday or Tuesday and dropped off at the health department the day they were taken by 1:00 P.M. This timeframe is set by the state laboratory to ensure valid sample results.

Would you like to know more? Sign up for the "Private Well Class" online for free! "http://www.privatewellclass.org"

For more information contact the Knox County Health Department at 309-344-2224.



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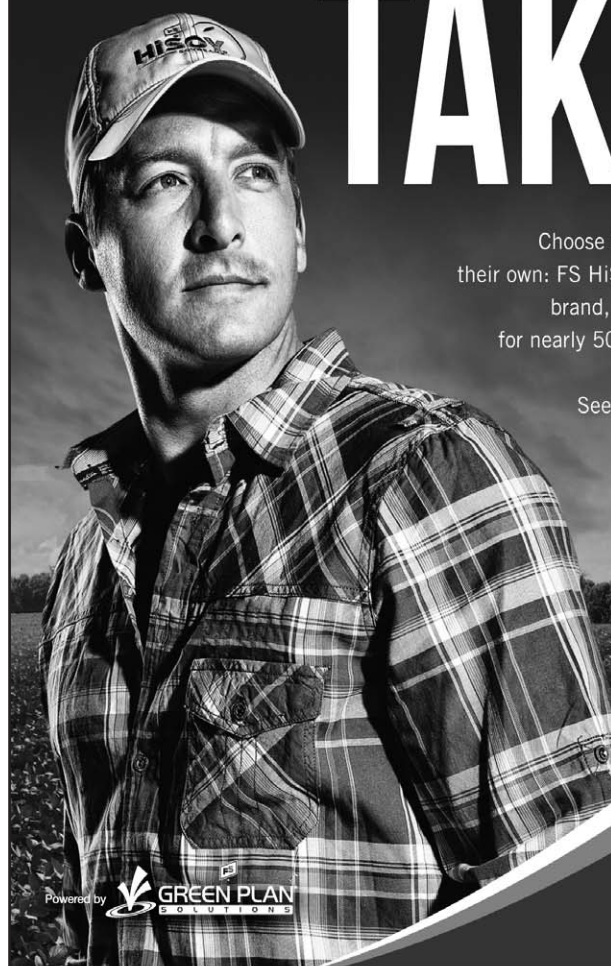
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MEMBERSHIP RECRUITER OF THE MONTH



Ed Johnson

The Knox County Farm Bureau would like to recognize COUNTRY Financial Representative, Ed Johnson as top membership recruiter. Ed signed four new associate members in February.

Call your COUNTRY Representative for all of your insurance and financial needs.

PRIMETIMERS NEWS

The PrimeTimers Committee met on February 17th and enjoyed a potluck lunch. Nine committee members were present for a program given by Andrew Bowman about his popcorn business Pilot Knob Comforts. The next

meeting will be on Tuesday, March 17th at 12 PM at the East Main Street Hy-Vee Diner to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Please RSVP to the KCFB office if you will be attending. The PrimeTimers invite those 55+ to attend!

CLASSIFIEDS

To place ads in the Bulletin or on the website, you must be a Knox County Farm Bureau member. Call 309-342-2036 or e-mail us at jreedy@knoxcfb.org by the last Friday of each month to place the ad.

LOOKING FOR: Experience person/s to help and manage 90 head cow/calf herd for % of calf crop or salary. Haw Creek Township. Call 309-875-3450. 3/15

NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANT SALE: Update your landscaping—add natives to attract birds & butterflies. Pleasant Prairie Nursery's spring native plant sale will be May 8 & 9 and May 15 & 16. Many varieties of locally grown native prairie wildflowers and grasses available. Sale location will be 24219 W. Laura Rd., Williamsfield, IL. www.pleasantprairienursery.com or phone 639-4346. 3/15

FOR RENT: Take a winter break in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. 1 week \$900. Call 309-335-6064. 3/15

WANTED: Bricks and broken concrete. Call 309-484-2160. 3/15

FOR RENT W/OPTION TO BUY: 156 West Mary St., Galesburg, IL 61401. 1 1/2 story, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, large family room w/wood burning fireplace. Big fenced-in backyard. 2 car garage. Darling home. Practically finished basement. Lots of new updates. Great location. Call 309-337-3174 or 309-221-4210. 3/15

FOR SALE: Large, round grass hay bales, net wrapped, \$40 each. Call 309-344-2077 or 309-351-6792. 2/15

LOOKING FOR: Farm Shop Manager. Galesburg area farm seeks a full time person with a large amount of mechanical experience for daily/seasonal repair and maintenance of entire John Deere fleet, trucks and other equipment. We will hire a detail oriented, well organized person, pay package commensurate to level of experience and ability. Please leave a message at 309-341-1600. 2/15

**Knox County Cattlemen's Association
Scholarship Opportunity for graduating seniors
who live and own cattle in Knox County.**

Deadline: March 27, 2015

**Applications are available at the KCFB Office.
Call 309.342.2036**

Knox County SWCD Spring Pre-Order Sales

The Knox County SWCD is conducting a spring tree sale, and fish sale. All proceeds benefit educational programs offered by the District.

We offer bare-root tree seedling species, available in different packages or by individual tree, Plantskydd, and tree guards available for pre-order until March 20, 2015. Volunteers are needed to help pack tree orders on Thursday, April 16 in Edwards. Lunch will be provided. Orders will be ready for pick-up on Friday, April 17, 2015 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. at the office, 233 S Soangetaha Rd.

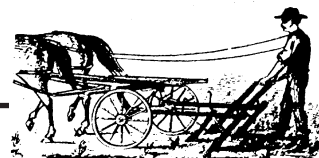
Need to re-stock your pond? The District offers ten different fish species for pre-order until April 7, 2015 for grass carp orders and April 15, 2015 for all other species. Order pick-up will be Wednesday, April 22, 2015 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the USDA building. Pond water is only needed for orders of 8-10 inch channel catfish. All other fish will be bagged. Bring containers to secure the bags and prevent rolling.

All order forms are available

- in the January SWCD newsletter
- at the District office 233 S. Soangetaha Rd. Galesburg, IL
- online at <http://knoxcountyswcd.tripod.com>

For more information, please call the Knox County SWCD (309) 342-5714 ext. 3

Looking Back



TAKEN FROM THE MARCH 1927 BULLETIN

A cow owned by Leonard Nelson of Oneida made the highest butter-fat record for February of the 361 cows in the Knox County Herd Improvement Association.

TAKEN FROM THE MARCH 1946 BULLETIN

Knox County Farm Bureau membership on March 1, 1946 was 1,965 as compared with 1,840 a year ago, and 1,300 five years ago.

TAKEN FROM THE MARCH 1980 BULLETIN

The 1980 Outstanding Young Farmer for the State of Illinois is Mr. and Mrs. Michael L. Hennenfent of Gilson, Illinois, in Knox County. Mike will be going on to represent the state of Illinois in the national Outstanding Young Farmers competition held in Waterloo, Iowa, in 1981.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Baked Salmon

Ingredients

- 4 (5oz) salmon fillets
- 2 tbsp olive oil plus 2 tsp
- Salt and pepper
- 3 tomatoes, chopped

Directions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Sprinkle salmon with 2 tsp olive oil, salt, and pepper. In a bowl, stir to blend tomatoes, shallots, 2 tbsp oil, lemon juice, oregano, thyme, salt and pepper.



- 2 chopped shallots
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp dried thyme

Place a salmon fillet, oiled side down, atop a sheet of foil. Wrap the ends of the foil up to hold mixture in packet. Spoon mixture over salmon. Seal packets and place on heavy, large baking sheet. Bake until salmon just cooked through, about 25 minutes.



Kara Downin, Resource Conservationist at the Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District (left) and Mary Beth Bowman, Knox County Farm Bureau Ag In The Classroom Coordinator, (right) discussed soil with students at Lombard Middle School.

Knox County Soil & Water Conservation District Max and Frances Sanford Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship deadline is April 1, 2015.

The scholarship is offered to a Knox County resident who is pursuing a career in Agriculture or an Environmental related field. Applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, submit an application with current transcripts and ACT score (both REQUIRED) and write an essay on "What Conservation means to you and how do you plan to incorporate Conservation into your Future Plans?"

Scholarship applications can be found at the District office 233 S. Soangetaha Rd. Galesburg, or online at <http://knoxcountyswcd.tripod.com>. For questions contact the district office at (309) 342-5714 ext. 3

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