

Bulletin



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



From The Knox County Farm Bureau

4-H Members Recognized For Outstanding Ag Leadership

Ten Illinois 4-H members who exemplified outstanding leadership within the agricultural industry and demonstrated a desire to remain engaged were recently recognized as 2024-25 Illinois Sustaining the Future Award recipients.

As a Sustaining the Future Award recipient, these dedicated and hard-working 4-H members are invited to attend the Premier 20 Leadership Conference, an elite youth leadership and professional development opportunity, on April 28-29, 2025.

Award recipients are:

- Amanda Niemann, Montgomery County

- Caleb Zwilling, Champaign County
- **Ellis Rogers, Knox County**
- Faustina Krysciak, Kendall County
- Hayley Lair, Adams County
- Kamber Kilgus, Livingston County
- Kristina Morrow, Logan County
- Mason Hilmes, Clinton County
- Owen Kocher, Richland County
- Taylor Crouch, Macon County

The Sustaining the Future Award is sponsored by Illinois Farm Bureau and Affiliates Youth Education in Agriculture Committee.

Notice! Knox County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the voting members of the Knox County Farm Bureau will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. to elect directors and if approved confirm the reports of the officers for the year ending November 30, 2024; and for the transactions of such business as may properly come before the meeting.

Dated at Galesburg, Illinois on January 1, 2025.

Hunger Wars FOOD DRIVE

KCFB YOUNG FARMERS



CANNED GOODS

VS



MONETARY DONATION

KCFB BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PAPER PRODUCTS

DROP OFF YOUR CANNED GOODS OR DONATION TO THE KCFB OFFICE BY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR OUR NOVEMBER SEMINAR! OVER 70 PEOPLE ATTENDED!



Dr. Steve Johnson serves as the Farm & Ag Business Management Specialist in Central Iowa for Iowa State University Extension. He presents at more than 100 meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences across the Corn Belt and interacts with more than 10,000 producers annually.



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



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Office Hours
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

Thank You
KNOX COUNTY FARM BUREAU



Finger foods deliver holiday fun, spark conversation

Butcher block paper covered the 60-inch round table, transforming it into an oversized food platter. Piles of cubed cheeses, sliced cured meats, olives, fruits, veggies and spreads dominated that five-foot-diameter space. Salami shaped into roses, fanned crackers and varying flavors of cheeses gave aesthetic appeal to a party spread worthy of a meal.

While that bridal shower display upstages anything on my kitchen island, I so fondly enjoy the holiday-time finger foods that fill bowls, line platters or cover char-

cuterie boards. They deliver big taste in bite-size amounts, and the trendy charcuterie concept of artistically piling little foods on wood cutting boards and platters (or tables) makes presentation fun.

The centuries-old French practice has evolved from charcuterie boards of strictly meats to include creative displays of cheeses, fruits, vegetables, crackers, spreads, desserts, nuts and even candy. Generation Z adores the concept. Recognizing that, the Farm Bureau has sponsored charcuterie classes to connect with consumers born in the late 1990s and early 2000s. What an opportune time to talk nutrition. Talk food-shopping habits. Talk Illinois agriculture.

And therein lies one of my loves for finger foods: socialization. Little foods are social to make, social to display and social to eat. Family and friends congregate around the kitchen island to converse as they hover the inventory of tantalizing finger foods like ham-and-ranch wrapped pickles, tortilla rollups with a dab of salsa, seasoned pretzels

and homemade Chex mix. Toothpicks aid dining on bacon-wrapped little smokies and homemade meatballs to help move this eating experience from appetizer to meal.

Sometimes, the main course includes small sandwiches of chicken salad and triangle-cut, sliced loaf bread sandwiches of our grandma's ground bologna salad. The beloved family-recipe cheeseball often triggers stories of cheeseball design competitions or inside jokes of cheeseball thefts from Christmases past. We always have carrots, broccoli florets and grapes to add nutritional balance to the finger food lineup if nothing more than to feel better about Mom's Crispix Mix. That sugar-laden recipe probably four-folds the simple cereal's calories. But dang, it's addictively good, and she makes it only during the holidays.

My childhood 4-H club had a "finger food potluck" at every January meeting, a novel idea in an era when most meals needed more cutlery than fingers. Small foods made the meal and the memories then, as they do now.

Getting To Know Your Farm Bureau Policy

1. PHILOSOPHY OF FARM BUREAU

Illinois Farm Bureau recognizes freedom, the dignity and worth of the individual, equal opportunity, initiative and compensation for accomplishment, as basic concepts responsible for our country's progress and stature among the nations of the world. We believe the strength of every civilized society is the family. The encouragement of the family unit where morals, values, parental responsibilities, and strong work ethics are exemplified and taught is of paramount importance. This must be considered an individual and local responsibility. We believe in the sanctity of private property and individual rights as provided by the U.S. Constitution, as the basis of American freedom and progress. The principles of our economic system derive from and are consistent with our religious values and goals. Through this system the American people have excelled and produced abundant goods and services for themselves and for people of other nations and have enjoyed widespread educational advantages and religious opportunities.

We believe in incentives, individual re-

sponsibility, initiative, freedom and the right to work without governmental dependence. If our organization and our country are to continue to be free and strong, we must act to determine our own destiny.

Each individual must assume active responsibility for maintaining and strengthening the principles upon which our government was founded and vigorously oppose all programs and policies which erode its foundation. We deplore irresponsible acts of defiance and lack of respect for laws enacted by our elected governmental representatives at all levels.

Illinois Farm Bureau philosophy must represent the thinking of a majority of its members so their organization can achieve maximum effectiveness and influence. The autonomy of the local unit must be maintained to preserve a strong grass roots organizational base.

Illinois Farm Bureau is an organization through which farm people can work together and cooperate with others to strengthen agriculture's role and influence as a vital part of a strong, prosperous economy in a free America. As such, membership necessitates

participation as the foremost responsibility of the individual and it is incumbent upon and essential to the success of Illinois Farm Bureau that the membership as a whole act when called upon by the organization.

We will assist members in understanding, influencing, and adapting to the changing realities in production agriculture, the rural economy, and rural family life.

Our national life is founded on spiritual faith and belief in God. We favor leaving "In God We Trust" on coins and currency and "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ACTIVATION AND STATUS OF RESOLUTIONS

Policies of the Illinois Agricultural Association are subject to review at any official meeting of the voting delegates.

Resolutions adopted at this annual meeting state the current position of the Illinois Agricultural Association.

The voting delegates authorize the renumbering, placing, and arranging of the resolutions adopted at this annual meeting with the appropriate subject matter for publication in the current resolutions booklet.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
Coming Soon

APPLICATION WINDOW
JANUARY 1- FEBRUARY 15

COLLEGE

THE IAA FOUNDATION
www.iaafoundation.org

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 to any businesses 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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ONE STOP SAVINGS

Log in to our new membership benefit platform using your county Farm Bureau membership number at <https://ilfb.abenity.com>

HOW TO:

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

Knox County Farm Bureau®

Last name, First name
Last name, First name

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November KCFB Board Highlights

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

Education & Outreach – Lori Engel

Finalize Adult AITC Winter Season. Empowered Wellness for Women workshop by Dr. Kristen Strom was held on November 13 at 6PM and 21 were in attendance. 14 are members. This was co-sponsored with the Friends of Travis Weaver

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. Steve Johnson presented on November 19 for over 70 members. A 2026 Plat Book will be completed in 2025 and be for sale on December 1, 2025.

Government and Policy – Kyle Underwood

Sign up for FB Act text alerts by texting the word FARM to 52886. KCFB presented the IFB ACTIVATOR Friend of Ag Award to Representative Travis Weaver on November 5.

Member Relations – Joel McCormick

KCFB met the 2024 Quota ending with 817 MM, 15 MS, 22 PM, 1,773 A Members.

Young Farmers – Brandon Hall

Young Farmers will meet on November 21 with the Board of Directors for dinner. John & Beka O'Connor will be giving a presentation on their Young Leader Ag Industry Tour trip.

PrimeTimers – Hailey Hennenfent

PrimeTimers met on November 19 for the Holiday Meal at PZ's. PrimeTimers is always looking for new members, 55+.

Foundation – Hailey Hennenfent

The KCFB Foundation will meet on November 20.

KAC – Hailey Hennenfent

The Knox Agri Center will meet on November 20. The new plaque for the Meritorious Service to Ag Award is in and will be hung soon.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board of Directors Policy was updated.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2025 KCFB Budget was approved.

KCFB Board Attendance 2024

	September	October	November
Beard, Jennifer	A	P	P
Bollivar, Jason	P	P	P
Courson, Dustin	A	P	A
DeSutter, Drew	P	P	P
Eagle, Tim	P	P	P
Emken, Kurt	A	P	P
Emmons, Rob	A	A	A
Engel, Lori	P	P	P
Erickson, Michelle	P	P	P
Goedeke, Phil	P	P	P
Grady, Jeff	A	P	P
Hall, Brandon	A	A	P
Link, Aaron	P	P	P
Link, Cory	P	P	P
McCormick, Joel	P	P	P
Nelson, Brian	P	P	P
O'Connor, Tom	A	P	P
Stevens, Monica	P	A	P
Underwood, Kyle	P	P	A

(P) Present

(A) Absent

(C) Cancelled

AGENT SPOTLIGHT



Ed Johnson

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
 Education: Bachelor of Science - Agriculture Business, Western Illinois University
 Designations: Investment Solutions Representative
 Awards: All American, Executive Club, Million Dollar Round Table
 Mission Statement: To deliver honest, straightforward answers to everyone; turning clients from being customers into being lifetime friends.



Wishing Knox County a safe and wonderful holiday season!



Ed Johnson Galesburg (309)342-1646
 John Ryner Galesburg (309)342-1625
 Doug Atwater Knoxville (309)948-7943
 Jeremy Kleine Galesburg (309)342-3177
 Michael White Galesburg (309)342-3177
 Patrick Young Galesburg (309)342-5316

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 1220-510HC_-11/21/2024



WEST CENTRAL FS, INC.

2025 AGRI-FINANCE LOAN PROGRAMS

0% Seed

- 0% to August 31, 2025
- Effective September 1, 2025, rate changes to 5.00% fixed until December 31, 2025
- Effective January 1, 2026 rate changes to the FS Index Rate + 1.00% maturity
- March 15, 2026 loan maturity date
- Invoices will be billed deferred
- Invoices will be drawn on the seed loan on or before July 31, 2025
- Final sales must be equal to or greater than prior year's sales

0% Crop Protection

- 0% to August 31, 2025
- Effective September 1, 2025 rate changes to 5.00% fixed until December 31, 2025
- Effective January 1, 2026 rate changes to the FS index Rate + 1.00% maturity
- March 15, 2026 loan maturity date
- Invoices will be billed deferred
- Invoices will be drawn on the loan on or before August 31, 2025
- Seed purchase required
- Final seed sales must equal to or greater than prior year's sales

Input Loans

- All prepay and in-season crop input purchases
- Full term variable rate
- March 15, 2026 loan maturity date

For more information contact:

Jennifer Sparrow
 Agri-Finance Marketing Manager
 (309) 221-5620



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Leah Glaser

Ag Loan Officer

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 Cell: 309.213.5592
 lglaser@fsbelmwood.com

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Meet KCFB Board Member, Monica Stevens!

Monica has been on the Board of Directors since 2015. Learn more about Monica here:

Tell us a little bit about you and your family. I am the daughter of Glenn and Judy Stevens and grew up on a farm raising corn, soybeans, hay, and Shorthorn cattle. My grandparents, Lester and Maxine Stevens, started raising Shorthorns in 1943. From a cow and her heifer calf, they built the herd we have today.



agriculture. As a farmer, I see such beauty in every day. Tradition... caring for our beloved Shorthorn cattle. My heart flutters seeing every healthy newborn calf.

Why did you join the Knox County Farm Bureau? After graduating from WIU, I moved home to the farm wanting to further pursue my passion for agriculture, continue my involvement in agriculture organizations, and network with fellow farmers... and Knox County Farm Bureau Young Farmers was the prime cut.

Favorite part of being on the Board of Directors? It has been a great experience in understanding how a grassroots organization like Knox County Farm Bureau works through developing policies and building relationships with legislators for the betterment of farmers of Knox County.

What are your hobbies and interests? photography, running, styling and decorating my home with antiques and vintage, finding the best iced vanilla latte

When I was 10 years old, I bought a heifer calf from my parents and continued the love and tradition of raising Shorthorn cattle. After graduating from WIU with a Bachelors of Science in Agriculture, I served as Chair of Knox County Young Farmers, President of Knox County Cattlemen's Association, Illinois Beef Association Checkoff Director, IFB Young Leaders District 8 Representative, and 2012 IFB Young Leaders Chair. In 2007, I was second in the IFB Young Leaders Excellence in Agriculture Award. And in 2015, I was in the Cultivating Master Farmers class. In 2022, I was excited to have purchased my first farm. Currently, I am a Food Inspector with USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Where are you from? Altona

What do you love most about agriculture? God has blessed me with the love of

Meet KCFB Board Member, Tom O'Connor!

Tom has been on the Board of Directors since 2015. Learn more about Tom here:

Tell us a little bit about you and your family - My wife Jane and I are now retired and our two sons John with wife Beka, and Carl have taken over the corn, beans and cattle operation.



ize the exponential value of my membership and have been happy ever after.

Favorite part of being on the Board of Directors?

Listening to all the different viewpoints. Oh, and all the stories, breakdowns, kids, hired men, hunting, etc.

What are your hobbies and interests? History. Family, regional, national, world.

What is something people might not know about you? I have a sense of humor.

Where are you from? Lived near Wataga my whole life.

What do you love most about agriculture? The sense of community. It's the only business that if you find a better way of doing something you share with your peers and competitors.

Why did you join the Knox County Farm Bureau? They needed a warm body. My dad was on the board, and I got drafted to meet quota but after being involved in the Young Farmers committee I came to real-

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

- Marty Briney
- Bill Clarke
- Scott & Susie Peet
- Sara & Josh Pierce
- Jack Ball
- Erma Gillenwater
- Grace Lutheran Church
- Jeremiah Johnson
- Joe & Christine Spence
- Marilyn Platt



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309-342-3611

PrimeTimers News



PrimeTimers met on November 19 for the Holiday Meal at PZ's. PrimeTimers will not meet in December. The next meeting is the Program of Work meeting on January 21. 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!



1305 Knox Hwy 7
Knoxville, IL 61448

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Dan Dexter, Owner
(309) 337-7208
dandexter@gmail.com

Tim Dillon
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timdillon243@gmail.com

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-Weekly Auctions



Join Us!



BEGINNING FARMER FSA LUNCHEON

Thursday
January 16, 2025

11 AM - 1 PM

Presentation by the FSA Office

'Beginning Farmers and Rancher Loans'

Elmwood Banquet Hall

112 S Magnolia | Elmwood, IL 61529

Lunch is Provided

RSVP to Leah Brown
lbrown@fsbelmwood.com or
309.213.5592

HELPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FARMERS SUCCEED!

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Health on the Farm

By the Knox County Health Department



How to Manage Stress, Eat Healthy, and Stay Safe This Holiday Season

The holiday season is the perfect time to celebrate the joys of family and friends. But it is easy to forget about ourselves when fulfilling the obligations and responsibilities that create those wonderful holiday memories.

We encourage you to follow and pay special attention to your health and wellness as you cross to-dos off your list. The Knox County Health Department wants you to ring in the New Year in good spirits and good health.

Deck the halls with reds and greens-not the holiday blues.

According to the American Psychological Association we are more stressed during the holidays. All that stress can lead us to overeat, overspend, and overextend ourselves-which can leave us feeling anxious, and ever more stressed.

Reasons for getting the holiday blues vary, but often include:

- You are suffering from empty nest syndrome, which many parents feel when their children move out of the home.
- You do not have a family of origin with whom to spend the holidays.
- You are feeling left out because you do not participate in a religious holiday.
- There has been a recent change in your family dynamics, such as the death of a loved one.
- Your attempts to recreate joyous memories from childhood do not measure up to present-day reality.
- You are expected to be joyful during this time of year.

Tips to help with the holiday blues:

- Try to stick to your normal routines.
- Prioritize sleep.
- Eat and drink in moderation. Do not drink alcohol if you are feeling down.
- Exercise.
- Make your to-do list simple!
- Set a budget for holiday activities and

presents.

- Find ways to relax that fit you, music, cooking dancing, or meditation

Healthy Eating During the Holidays

- Maintaining healthy eating during the holidays can be hard. Between increased social events, work potlucks, and endless cocktails, you may be

wondering how you can still enjoy celebrating while not making yourself sick. Some tips to make healthier choices:

- Fill your plate with veggies first.
- Aim to get lean protein sources, whole grains, fruits, and veggies.
- Always begin with water.
- Moderation, not deprivation. Enjoy holiday treats in moderation, and do not snack mindlessly.
- Be mindful: Be fully aware of what you are eating, and make sure you chew your food slowly.

Keeping Those Holiday Gatherings Free of Illness

The flu season usually begins in peak in December, right between the holidays.

Everyone will get a cold from time to time, but people can take steps to support their immune systems and ward off sicknesses. It is important to keep from spreading sicknesses, since illnesses like flu, RSV, and COVID can be especially serious for some people.

The Knox County Health Department encourages people who have not already gotten their flu shot to get it now, since it takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection.

Please call the Knox County Health Department at 309-344-2224 with any questions or to schedule an appointment for a flu or COVID vaccine.

Don't let the cold and flu season
get you down

The Knox Community Health Center
accepts medical walk-ins



Hannah Erickson, FNP-BC



**Robert Wagner, MD
Medical Director**

Knox Community Health Center
1361 W. Fremont St Galesburg, IL 309-344-2225



December AITC Update

Illinois is the pumpkin state! It leads the production of pumpkins used for canning.

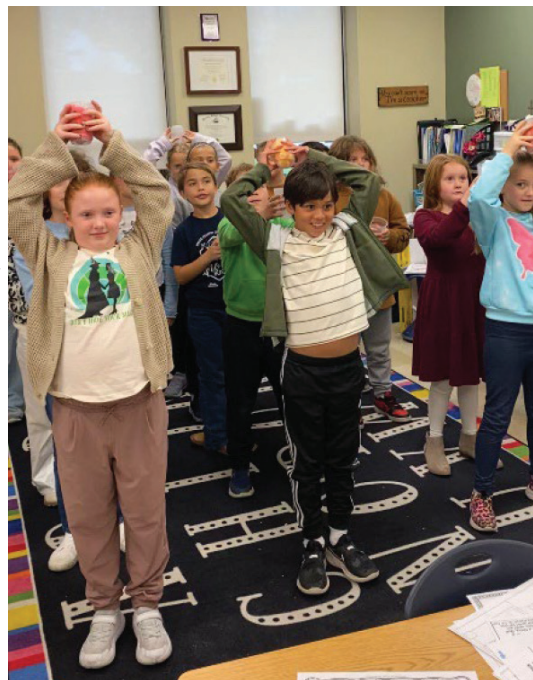
These pumpkins are tan in color not bright orange and have more "meat" than their Halloween relatives. Morton,

Illinois is the pumpkin capital of the world and grows millions of the Dickinson variety of pumpkins for Libby's each year. 85% of canned pumpkin comes from Tazewell County.

That's what students in third, fourth and fifth grades learned from AITC during November. The students also enjoyed a pumpkin pass relay game, learning about the life cycle of a pumpkin and eating

no-bake pumpkin pie.

They will have a greater appreciation for the crop behind that #1 dessert at their Thanksgiving feast!



Recipe of the Month Baked Cranberry Cream Cheese Dip

Ingredients:

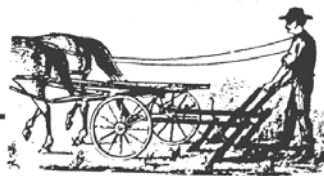
8 oz cream cheese, softened
1 cup sour cream
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
½ cup shredded white cheddar cheese
1 cup fresh cranberries
2 tbsp sugar
2 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped
Crackers, breadsticks, or crostini for serving



Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees
2. In a medium bowl, mix softened cream cheese, sour cream, mozzarella, and white cheddar until well combined.
3. In a separate bowl, toss cranberries with sugar until evenly coated.
4. Spread the cheese mixture evenly into a baking dish, then top with sugared cranberries.
5. Place in the oven and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until bubbly and the cranberries begin to burst.
6. Remove from oven, sprinkle with chopped parsley, and serve warm with crackers or crostini.

Looking Back



December 2000



Ten members of the Knox County Young Farmers visited our Adopted Classroom – Mrs. Zeiler’s 5th grade class at Monroe School, Chicago

Young Farmers Visit Adopted Classroom

For several years, the Knox County Young Farmers have adopted a Chicago classroom, corresponding with them throughout the school year to educate them about agriculture. Several of the Young Farmers have made personal videos of their farming operation, which are sent to the classroom to help them learn about livestock and crops.

This year, the Young Farmers are corresponding with Mrs. Zeiler and her 5th grade class at Monroe School, Chicago.

While attending the 2000 Illinois Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Chicago, Young Farmers Brad & Nicole Lincoln, Tim, Jamie & Anna Carlson, David Serven, Rob Link, Janelle West, and Jason & Jennifer Beard visited Mrs. Zeiler and her class on Monday, December 4.

During the morning long presentation, the Young Farmers discussed their farming operations, along with other topics concerning machinery, GPS, crops and farming practices. Ag materials and goodies were left for the students, along with some videos to be viewed at a later date.

The Adopt A Classroom program is coordinated by the Illinois Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Department, “matching” over 75 farm families and groups with Chicago public school elementary classrooms. The program generally involves a letter exchange between the farm family and classroom.

~ 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: Black + Decker Arm Saw - \$125. Call (309) 335-1316

FOR SALE: Black + Decker Table Saw - \$125. Call (309) 335-1316

FOR SALE: Black + Decker Band Saw - \$50. Call (309) 335-1316

FOR SALE: 20 Iron Wagon Wheels - \$25 each. Call (309) 335-1316

FOR SALE: 10 Sheets 4x8x1 Foam Insulation - \$25 each. Call (309) 341-4680

FOR SALE: 10 Storm Windows w/ screens 35in x 56 1/4 in surface mount - \$25 each, Take ALL. Call (309) 341-4680

FOR SALE: Pull Behind Lawn Sprayer - \$25. Call (309) 341-4680

FOR SALE: Double Seat Canvas Folding Chair w/ Bag - \$25. Call (309) 341-4680

FOR SALE: Nice Glass Top Coffee Table 4ft x 20in - \$25. Call (309) 341-4680

FOR SALE: Metal Frame Patio Glider w/ Wood Seat & Back - \$40. Call (309) 341-4680

FOR SALE: Craftsman 16in Variable Speed Scroll Saw w/ Stand, Lamp, Extra Blades, & Manual - \$100. Call (309) 341-4680

FOR SALE: Older Scroll Saw w/ Stand - \$40. Call (309) 341-4680

FOR SALE: New - 8 Piece Wood Turning Tool Set - \$25. Call (309) 341-4680

FOR SALE: Heavy 8ft Hay Ring. Can be unbolted into 3 pieces for transport or use inside for small bales. \$100. Call (309) 333-6209

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, Jeremy Kleine as the top membership recruiter in November. Jeremy signed four new Associate Members. Call your COUNTRY Representative for all your insurance and financial needs.



Jeremy Kleine



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