



Upcoming Dates:

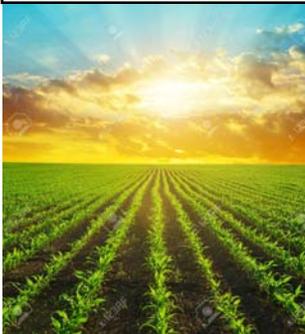


May 27:
Memorial Day

June:
Typical—first property tax installment due

June:
Typical—Farmland Assessment Review Committee mtg.

June 14:
Deadline for Resolutions Committee Submittals



Did You Know...?

Illinois has had six constitutional conventions, but only four constitutions.



May/June 2019

Volume 10 Issue 3

Over time

Local government's evolution of need, capability and relevance

by: *Kevin Rund*

Illinois' ranking as the top state in the nation in terms of the number of units of local government has helped to fuel a debate on our structure of local governments. What was a product of the 19th century is now a focus of attention in the 21st.

When Lincoln practiced law here, governance was under Illinois' 1818 and then 1848 Constitutions that embodied the Western Frontier mindset. Those documents determined the establishment of many local units; counties under the first and townships under the second.

Though local units were formed under the first two Constitutions, the powers and practices of those institutions were molded and matured under another. It was after the Civil

War just as Illinois' population was beginning to explode that citizens decided a new 1870 Constitution was in order; one that would place tighter State controls on local units.

It was this 1870 Constitution—which stood for 100 years—that influenced local governments in Illinois during its largest expansion era. The vast majority of those units are with us yet today. They were designed and instituted to meet the needs of that early time and were flavored by limitations on transportation and communication, by a majority rural/agrarian population that was growing rapidly, and by a short leash held by State government.

The general purpose units—

(See **Over time** on page 2)

2020 Certified Values

Farmland assessment values for taxes payable in 2021

by: *Brenda Matherly*

The Illinois Department of Revenue has published the Certified Farmland Values for the 2020 assessment year. These values will be used to calculate farmland taxes payable in 2021.

All 2020 certified cropland soils increased \$32.01 in assessed value. The \$32.01 is an increase equal to the legislative limit of 10 percent of

the preceding year's median PI 111 soil Productivity Index certified assessed value—as required by the Farmland Assessment Law.

Your Chief County Assessment Officer (CCAO) should be scheduling a meeting of the County Farmland Assessment Review Committee (FARC) to approve the newly-certified values. The meeting should be publicized in

(See **Assessments** on page 5)

Over time

(Continued from page 1)

municipalities, counties and townships—made up the foundation of local government, but special purpose districts flourished in Illinois under the 1870 Constitution. These single-service governmental units were helpful in providing a specialized service to an area in need while limiting taxation only to those areas benefitting from the service. But it is also understood that a primary reason for their rapid creation was to circumvent statutory limits on property tax rates. If the general-purpose unit (all of which have the authority to provide special services) was at or near its tax rate limit, additional funding could be generated by creating a new unit of government with its own taxing authority—the special purpose district. It was, and remains, a popular way to fund special services in limited areas; so popular, in fact, that today Illinois boasts more than 3,000 of them, more than any other state in the nation. And that number is still growing.

The 1970 Constitution was born of a time when transportation, communication and local needs were radically different than a century before. The makeup of the population had changed, too. Illinois was by then an urban state with the urban population vastly outnumbering rural voters. And those urban centers felt the need to shed that State-held leash that limited their governance options.

Taking this new set of circumstances into account after 100 years of change, the 1970 Illinois Constitution included several new concepts regarding local government. Municipalities and counties were offered “Home Rule”—the authority to adopt local ordi-

nances to do anything they chose, so long as it was not expressly prohibited by State law.

The new concept of “Special Service Areas” was provided as an alternative to “Special Service Districts”. The latter created a wholly new and separate unit of government, while the former could be set up by a general purpose unit to serve a limited area while using the existing governing board and taxing only those directly benefitting from the service.

Obsolete forms of government fall away over time and with each new Constitution.

County boards no longer would be made up of Township Supervisors; bowing to the U.S. Supreme Court’s mandate for equal representation, board members would be elected at large or from districts of equal population—diminishing the influence of township government and expanding the impact of urban populations.

Along with structural change, technological and societal changes have steadily and sometimes rapidly shifted the paradigms influencing local governance needs. Since 1870, we’ve seen the advent of the automobile, the emergence of paved roads, the airplane and a radical improvement in our personal mobility. Since 1970 the Internet and cell phones have made communications instantaneous and vastly superior to what we knew before.

Records, laws, and a world of information is at our fingertips. The Baby Boomer population is moving into retirement—and taking with it its penchant for volunteerism and community service, often not shared by younger generations; rural populations have been shrinking for decades; fewer citizens find jobs near their home; all these factors leaving many rural-based governments struggling to fill elective offices and volunteer service needs.

Today, after nearly 50 years under the 1970 Constitution, citizens have begun to ask whether there might be a better way to govern at the local level. It’s a serious question, certainly with serious consequences for our rural, agrarian membership.

It’s up to you; don’t look to others to take the lead. Under current Illinois law, local governmental units are created through local decision making. They’re also modified or eliminated by a vote of local citizens. But the Illinois General Assembly could pass laws to change that.

Consider the need. Consider the options. If you feel your local unit of government is worth saving, then get involved, make it work, make it efficient, make it meaningful. Obsolete forms of government fall away over time and in each new iteration of a Constitution.

LINK

Remember, you can click on the “Continued from” and “See (next)” markers in articles to skip ahead or back.

USDA Opens Application Portal

New ReConnect Rural Broadband Infrastructure Program makes funding available

Source: USDA Press Release

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue has announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now accepting online applications for funding through the new ReConnect Rural Broadband Pilot Program. These funds will enable the federal government to partner with the private sector and rural communities to build modern broadband infrastructure in areas with insufficient internet service.

Insufficient service is defined as connection speeds of less than 10 megabits per second download and 1 megabit per

second upload. ReConnect funding applications can be submitted at reconnect.usda.gov.

“Reliable, high-speed broadband internet e-Connectivity is critical for economic prosperity and quality of life in the 21st century, from education to health care to agriculture to manufacturing and beyond,” Secretary Perdue said. “We at USDA are very excited to begin accepting applications for funds from this new and innovative program, which will bring critical infrastructure investments to homes, farms, ranches, schools and health care sites in rural America.”

Congress first appropriated funds for the new Rural e-Connectivity Pilot Program, known as ReConnect, in 2018. The program will be a proof-of-concept, enabling USDA to create and implement innovative options for rural connectivity by providing various financial packages to customers.

In this first round of funding, USDA is making available at least \$600 million in rural broadband projects, through \$200 million in grants, \$200 million in loan and grant combinations, and \$200 million in low-interest loans. The application deadlines for each of these funding packages are as follows:

- May 31, 2019, for projects seeking federal funds from the grants-only package;
- June 21, 2019, for projects seeking a combination of federal loans and grants; and
- July 12, 2019, for projects seeking low-interest federal loans.

This \$600 million appropriation from Congress more than doubles federal funding available through USDA’s longstanding broadband programs. Future rounds of funding for ReConnect will be announced later this year.

For additional information about the ReConnect program, see page 5981 of the February 25, 2019, [Federal Register](#) and page 64315 of the Dec. 14, 2018, [Federal Register](#).

Internet Access

A farm commodity, says the Census of Agriculture

by Brenda Matherly

The Internet and agriculture—a “connection” for success. The statistics on that, you might be interested to learn, can be found in the Census of Agriculture.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced the results of the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Among the 6.4 million points of information about America’s farms and ranches is data on internet access connecting them to the world wide web.

We look to Census data to provide valuable insight into and updates on agriculture produc-

tion at the national, state and county levels. Reinforcing its economic value, the 2017 Census of Agriculture includes data on the “commodity” (as it is referred to in the Census) of Internet access.

**See pages 6 and 7
for county internet
access statistics.**

The information provided in the Census can reasonably be used to predict connection throughout Illinois’ rural communities on a county-by-county basis. Farming being rural in nature, means many farmers are typical of the rural residents who stand to benefit from internet access. Growing reliance on digital/electronic transfer of data makes this ac-

(See **Internet** on page 4)

LINK

BUILD Round 2

Rural infrastructure gets another boost

by Kirby Wagner

Last month, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced an opportunity for grant funding through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. \$900 million has been made available for Round 2 projects.

"These BUILD Transportation grants will provide needed infrastructure investment to better connect rural and urban communities around our nation," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao.

2019 BUILD grants are for surface transportation projects and will be awarded to projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. BUILD funding can support roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports or intermodal transportation.

To reflect the Trump Administration's ongoing effort to balance past under-investment in rural America, 2018 BUILD awards were required to give 30% of funding to rural projects. For 2019 awards, that push continues. DOT intends

to award up to 50% of 2019 funding to projects located in rural areas.

The FY 2019 BUILD program gives special consideration to projects that emphasize improved access to reliable, safe, and affordable transportation for communities in rural areas.

This includes projects that improve infrastructure condition, address public health and safety, promote regional connectivity, facilitate economic growth or competitiveness, deploy broadband as part of an eligible transportation project, or promote energy independence.

This availability is key for local governments and their range of needs. The wide variety of project criteria addresses many issues important to each community.

For the second go around, local governments should have a better feel for what a winning project looks like. That should help them to tweak their applications and better compete for funding that their infrastructure desperately needs.

The maximum grant award per project is \$25 million, and no more than \$90 million can be awarded to a single State.

Increased funding for rural projects should aid in crumbling local infrastructure. The announcement of the funding is positive news for rural United States. Applications are due July 15 and project awards in November, and I hope to see several Illinois projects on the list of winning applicants.

Internet

(Continued from page 3)

cess a necessity for farmers and other rural residents. It's also a fact that more and more units of local government, businesses (including farming), education and health care providers are communicating and conducting business electronically. But, the 2017 Census data still shows a digital divide between rural and urban areas nationwide.

In fact, of the 46 million people who live in rural America, a report from the Federal Communication Commission claims about 19 million rural American households still lack reliable, affordable, high-speed internet.

While internet access in urban areas still outpaces rural connectivity, a comparison of the Census data shows farms with Internet access rose from 69.6% in 2012 to 75.4% in 2017.

In Illinois, according to the Census data, the county of DuPage leads the state in the percentage of farms with internet access. At 92%, it's well above the reported 61% of farms with internet access in Hamilton County. By comparison, DuPage County has a total population of 928,589 while Hamilton County is just under that at 8,163. However, before you assume population is the driving factor, consider that, second to DuPage County's 92% access, is rural Hardin County with access to 90% of the farms in the county at a population of 3,910!

Census data for all Illinois' farm internet access, by county, can be found on beginning on page 6 of this publication.

2018 AWARDS



**CERTIFIED VALUES TABLE
KEY:**

The 5-year capitalization rate is 4.46 percent.

The 10 percent increase of 2019 certified value is \$32.01 for all certified soils.

* These values reflect the Statutory changes to 35 ILCS 200/10-115e UNDER Public Act 98-0109.

* Farmland values are as certified by the Illinois Department of Revenue. Any differences in calculations are due to rounding at different stages of calculations.

Assessments

(Continued from page 1)

the legal notice section of your local newspaper.

In addition to approving the 2020 values, the FARC can advise the CCAO on application of the Certified Values and local farmland valuation procedures to be implemented in the county. This meeting is open to the public.

LINK

*The BUILD program defines “rural area” as any area outside an **Urbanized Area (UA)** as designated by the U.S. Census Bureau. Per the Census Bureau, a UA is an area that consists of densely settled territory with a population of **50,000 or more people.***

Average Mgmt. PI	Gross Income	Non-Land Production Costs	Net Land Return	Agricultural Economic Value	Equalized Assessed Value	*2020 Certified Value
82	\$451.76	\$326.56	\$125.20	\$2,807.13	\$935.71	\$164.08
83	\$456.06	\$328.23	\$127.82	\$2,866.02	\$955.34	\$165.69
84	\$460.36	\$329.90	\$130.45	\$2,924.92	\$974.97	\$167.30
85	\$464.65	\$331.57	\$133.08	\$2,983.81	\$994.60	\$168.96
86	\$468.95	\$333.24	\$135.70	\$3,042.70	\$1,014.23	\$170.65
87	\$473.25	\$334.91	\$138.33	\$3,101.60	\$1,033.87	\$172.26
88	\$477.54	\$336.58	\$140.96	\$3,160.49	\$1,053.50	\$173.76
89	\$481.84	\$338.25	\$143.58	\$3,219.39	\$1,073.13	\$179.95
90	\$486.14	\$339.92	\$146.21	\$3,278.28	\$1,092.76	\$186.35
91	\$490.43	\$341.59	\$148.84	\$3,337.18	\$1,112.39	\$192.77
92	\$494.73	\$343.26	\$151.46	\$3,396.07	\$1,132.02	\$199.17
93	\$499.02	\$344.93	\$154.09	\$3,454.97	\$1,151.66	\$205.57
94	\$503.32	\$346.60	\$156.72	\$3,513.86	\$1,171.29	\$211.98
95	\$507.62	\$348.27	\$159.34	\$3,572.76	\$1,190.92	\$218.38
96	\$511.91	\$349.94	\$161.97	\$3,631.65	\$1,210.55	\$224.78
97	\$516.21	\$351.61	\$164.60	\$3,690.54	\$1,230.18	\$231.18
98	\$520.51	\$353.28	\$167.22	\$3,749.44	\$1,249.81	\$237.57
99	\$524.80	\$354.95	\$169.85	\$3,808.33	\$1,269.44	\$244.69
100	\$529.10	\$356.62	\$172.48	\$3,867.23	\$1,289.08	\$254.37
101	\$533.40	\$358.29	\$175.11	\$3,926.12	\$1,308.71	\$264.60
102	\$537.69	\$359.96	\$177.73	\$3,985.02	\$1,328.34	\$275.13
103	\$541.99	\$361.63	\$180.36	\$4,043.91	\$1,347.97	\$285.77
104	\$546.29	\$363.30	\$182.99	\$4,102.81	\$1,367.60	\$295.48
105	\$550.58	\$364.97	\$185.61	\$4,161.70	\$1,387.23	\$303.76
106	\$554.88	\$366.64	\$188.24	\$4,220.60	\$1,406.87	\$312.16
107	\$559.18	\$368.31	\$190.87	\$4,279.49	\$1,426.50	\$320.47
108	\$563.47	\$369.98	\$193.49	\$4,338.38	\$1,446.13	\$327.96
109	\$567.77	\$371.65	\$196.12	\$4,397.28	\$1,465.76	\$335.32
110	\$572.07	\$373.32	\$198.75	\$4,456.17	\$1,485.39	\$342.75
111	\$576.36	\$374.99	\$201.37	\$4,515.07	\$1,505.02	\$352.13
112	\$580.66	\$376.66	\$204.00	\$4,573.96	\$1,524.65	\$362.61
113	\$584.96	\$378.33	\$206.63	\$4,632.86	\$1,544.29	\$373.27
114	\$589.25	\$380.00	\$209.25	\$4,691.75	\$1,563.92	\$384.13
115	\$593.55	\$381.67	\$211.88	\$4,750.65	\$1,583.55	\$395.13
116	\$597.85	\$383.34	\$214.51	\$4,809.54	\$1,603.18	\$406.34
117	\$602.14	\$385.01	\$217.13	\$4,868.44	\$1,622.81	\$417.72
118	\$606.44	\$386.68	\$219.76	\$4,927.33	\$1,642.44	\$429.22
119	\$610.74	\$388.35	\$222.39	\$4,986.22	\$1,662.07	\$440.95
120	\$615.03	\$390.02	\$225.01	\$5,045.12	\$1,681.71	\$459.06
121	\$619.33	\$391.69	\$227.64	\$5,104.01	\$1,701.34	\$505.82
122	\$623.63	\$393.36	\$230.27	\$5,162.91	\$1,720.97	\$550.09
123	\$627.92	\$395.03	\$232.89	\$5,221.80	\$1,740.60	\$565.26
124	\$632.22	\$396.70	\$235.52	\$5,280.70	\$1,760.23	\$587.10
125	\$636.52	\$398.37	\$238.15	\$5,339.59	\$1,779.86	\$634.50
126	\$640.81	\$400.04	\$240.77	\$5,398.49	\$1,799.50	\$683.21
127	\$645.11	\$401.71	\$243.40	\$5,457.38	\$1,819.13	\$733.25
128	\$649.41	\$403.38	\$246.03	\$5,516.28	\$1,838.76	\$754.31
129	\$653.70	\$405.05	\$248.65	\$5,575.17	\$1,858.39	\$774.42
130	\$658.00	\$406.72	\$251.28	\$5,634.06	\$1,878.02	\$794.75

2017 USDA Census of Agriculture		Farms with Internet Access							
County	Total Number of Farms	Percent	Total	Cable	Dialup	DSL	Fiber Optic	Mobile	Other
ADAMS	1,308	76%	990	112	19	167	291	334	29
ALEXANDER	126	81%	102	6	1	9	1	62	
BOND	637	77%	490	48	13	92	9	235	38
BOONE	457	84%	385	31	8	68	52	149	38
BROWN	419	70%	295	80	10	39	49	106	
BUREAU	1,038	79%	823	144	17	101	27	365	60
CALHOUN	474	64%	301	38	22	100	5	82	8
CARROLL	627	80%	502	86	14	110	5	205	62
CASS	429	74%	316	80	3	92	24	115	9
CHAMPAIGN	1,214	80%	975	147	9	156	41	469	68
CHRISTIAN	794	77%	610	74	18	184	28	237	40
CLARK	733	72%	526	85	27	128	20	252	12
CLAY	732	73%	535	43	1	157	219	188	5
CLINTON	831	78%	649	86	34	161	15	265	24
COLES	701	77%	543	68	8	244	12	194	13
COOK	182	89%	162	76	6	42	14	78	9
CRAWFORD	566	77%	436	50	17	105	18	171	7
CUMBERLAND	724	72%	519	54	15	100	4	213	25
DE KALB	779	87%	679	88	14	158	21	315	45
DE WITT	504	80%	401	60	6	80	2	196	31
DOUGLAS	600	64%	386	78	8	98	7	206	14
DU PAGE	77	92%	71	37		13	3	16	
EDGAR	637	80%	512	63	7	88	6	286	21
EDWARDS	291	78%	227	37	11	47	53	75	14
EFFINGHAM	1,193	79%	945	140	31	383	28	318	11
FAYETTE	1,239	70%	870	95	25	263	16	367	8
FORD	564	80%	452	63	11	92	28	179	29
FRANKLIN	596	68%	403	57	15	71	16	208	8
FULTON	973	76%	740	144	17	140	60	347	20
GALLATIN	165	79%	131	13	3	33	25	59	
GREENE	733	77%	568	79	29	149	1	149	30
GRUNDY	412	85%	349	54	5	71	15	154	30
HAMILTON	552	61%	339	47	7	115	72	133	2
HANCOCK	1,109	72%	794	143	33	232	133	259	10
HARDIN	161	90%	145	4		31	83	33	2
HENDERSON	438	84%	370	72	9	89	11	134	6
HENRY	1,353	81%	1,097	203	40	369	76	428	52
IROQUOIS	1,516	78%	1,180	199	32	192	35	464	62
JACKSON	772	69%	535	64	22	153	9	238	18
JASPER	913	75%	685	59	17	239	34	227	25
JEFFERSON	1,099	70%	768	74	28	98	22	343	34
JERSEY	519	75%	389	62	12	104	36	151	11
JO DAVIESS	947	75%	711	57	29	146	10	273	69
JOHNSON	653	65%	427	40	10	89	35	212	21
KANE	605	84%	506	97	20	111	33	201	30
KANKAKEE	756	76%	571	89	9	54	11	255	42
KENDALL	313	86%	268	39	10	55	14	121	25
KNOX	853	83%	705	145	29	200	114	322	12
LA SALLE	1,496	82%	1,220	188	52	246	43	490	61
LAKE	302	78%	235	80	16	49	12	94	6

County	Number of Farms	Percent	Total	Cable	Dialup	DSL	Fiber Optic	Mobile	Other
LAWRENCE	426	71%	303	29	17	45	2	111	6
LEE	832	81%	676	115	9	136	10	277	47
LIVINGSTON	1,313	84%	1,107	175	13	264	34	460	56
LOGAN	683	80%	546	83	9	132	17	188	22
MACON	589	85%	498	105	13	77	16	216	40
MACOUPIN	1,169	75%	873	118	41	270	44	319	36
MADISON	1,079	79%	852	188	40	173	132	340	23
MARION	1,004	73%	737	116	23	115	95	239	34
MARSHALL	472	82%	389	64	12	102	6	169	17
MASON	548	74%	405	90	11	81	27	176	9
MASSAC	417	78%	324	33	12	71	19	133	11
MCDONOUGH	760	80%	606	118	19	171	173	206	7
MCHENRY	881	81%	710	126	22	139	32	329	70
MCLEAN	1,416	81%	1,148	223	15	368	43	447	57
MENARD	386	81%	311	70	8	49	14	141	11
MERCER	748	78%	585	96	9	192	44	231	21
MONROE	568	76%	430	38	34	242	8	144	9
MONTGOMERY	1,067	80%	853	91	40	276	10	312	56
MORGAN	693	82%	567	104	9	112	8	228	45
MOULTRIE	526	67%	355	42	9	67	31	183	14
OGLE	1,011	85%	862	103	19	168	39	376	49
PEORIA	884	77%	684	121	19	168	40	301	45
PERRY	572	63%	360	47	4	72	4	165	
PIATT	422	86%	361	64	13	52	10	162	24
PIKE	956	72%	692	103	17	119	33	317	43
POPE	322	66%	212	21	5	42	89	77	
PULASKI	222	69%	153	12		30	7	100	9
PUTNAM	147	76%	112	32	5	20	3	50	2
RANDOLPH	808	73%	590	81	55	239	21	232	10
RICHLAND	596	82%	489	91	8	124	27	181	14
ROCK ISLAND	649	77%	497	109	13	110	18	219	15
SALINE	452	72%	326	24	10	66	40	178	7
SANGAMON	1,083	79%	853	220	26	110	16	337	45
SCHUYLER	544	69%	376	71	23	91	65	137	7
SCOTT	300	71%	212	38	6	33	21	98	4
SHELBY	1,197	75%	899	129	39	261	16	329	22
ST CLAIR	793	77%	613	101	22	159	15	245	53
STARK	362	79%	287	76	10	58	13	106	10
STEPHENSON	965	82%	788	121	13	164	4	341	39
TAZEWELL	857	79%	673	105	27	180	33	304	37
UNION	590	73%	428	36	9	106	9	237	6
VERMILION	1,049	78%	816	155	10	135	27	396	58
WABASH	208	76%	158	21	6	39	6	66	9
WARREN	711	82%	580	97	34	156	37	240	22
WASHINGTON	715	69%	495	56	27	146	15	193	31
WAYNE	1,025	72%	742	123	23	161	246	256	8
WHITE	496	74%	365	58	17	61	25	160	10
WHITESIDE	959	79%	754	164	24	136	5	304	56
WILL	801	82%	653	134	10	96	20	282	51
WILLIAMSON	610	71%	431	37	20	130	20	200	7
WINNEBAGO	736	82%	601	119	28	103	17	285	24
WOODFORD	920	78%	714	94	26	162	68	343	25
Total	72,651	77%	55,889	8,765	1,732	13,092	3,672	23,039	2,529
Percent by type			100%	15.7%	3.1%	23.4%	6.6%	41.2%	4.5%

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

During this designated month—and in light of the series of tough years farmers have faced—it’s a good time to reflect on our inner selves.

Studies have shown that 16 million people experience a mental health problem each year. Many of these people live in rural communities and on farms across America, making this is an important quality-of-life issue for those living and working in rural areas.

Having access to health care and mental health care resources can help farmers and rural residents manage stress and depression. To help promote

Cultivate a productive mindset

- Use Self-Talk** | The body hears what the mind thinks. So, choose your thoughts with purpose. Tell yourself that you can overcome any challenge. You can adapt. You can do it.
- Use your Breath** | When faced with a challenge, first use your breath. Deep breathing calms the mind and can help you focus. Combine deep breathing with self-talk to boost productivity.
- Use Acceptance** | When things are beyond your control, the most productive step you can take is to accept it. Try making the word "accept" part of your self-talk and using deep breathing as a time to pause, accept, and begin problem solving.

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
Farm • Family • Food

mental health and wellness, Illinois Farm Bureau is honoring mental health awareness month with information available to

county Farm Bureau’s (CFB’s) on the IFB Leaders’ Portal on the Mental Health Resource Page at: <https://ilcfb.org/engage/programs/health-safety/mental-health/>. In addition, a new article will be provided to CFBs monthly concerning topics surrounding mental health and wellness for farmers.

While May is mental health awareness month, the need for these informational resources will be ongoing.

LINK

Spotlight on: Kevin Rund

In this edition of *LINK*, we’d like to let readers know that this is the last issue for Kevin Rund its creator, editor, co-author and long-serving staff member of the Governmental Affairs and Commodities (GAC) Division.

Kevin, Senior Director of Local Government, will retire on June 28 with more than 39 years of service. We will miss his insight and layman’s explanation on complex local government issues consistently provided in this publication.



Kevin’s own involvement in Farm Bureau started as a member of the Champaign County Farm Bureau® and a member of that county’s Young Farmer committee.

He began his Illinois Farm Bureau staff career as an assistant county Farm Bureau manager in McLean County, then moved to Warren County where he served as manager. From there, he came back to Bloomington to join the GAC Division.



LINK was conceived as a means of promoting readers’ awareness and understanding of local government. Understanding fosters competence, and that builds confidence, which encourages involvement—Rund’s ultimate aim for county Farm Bureau leaders.

While guest articles from Kevin might show up in future editions of *LINK*, in his own words, retirement will more likely include “time spent savoring and appreciating life—sip my coffee, not guzzle it”

Well said Kevin! Enjoy your retirement and “link” to relaxation.

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