

# The Arthur Area BUSINESS CONNECTION

*Connecting the dots*

VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 1 ~ MAY 2020

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- Business Spotlight
- Coping During COVID-19
- Mystery Photo Challenge

**"IF YOUR DREAMS DO NOT SCARE  
YOU, THEY ARE NOT BIG ENOUGH."**

**— ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEA**





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**GRABER BUILDINGS** is this month's featured business. See article on page 22 to see how they got started and what they offer today.

# From the Publisher's Desk

Welcome to the first issue of The Business Connection! Our vision and goal is to provide a monthly publication that will highlight the products and services of the many local businesses in the Arthur area and surrounding communities. We will also include business news and articles of interest for the business owner as well as the general population. Our mission is to promote unity in communities and to serve you by partnering with you to bring awareness to the many talented business people in these communities.

This is a FREE publication and can be picked up at many businesses and other venues. If you would like to have it mailed to you each month, see page 38 for subscription information.

Did you know that there are more than 3000 businesses listed within a 25 mile radius of Arthur? Our guess is that you may need what some of them have to offer. We are here to help you find the items you need or to promote the items you are selling. Our prayer is for the economy in these areas to prosper and for businesses to support each other, especially during this difficult time as we face the COVID-19 pandemic. Now is the time to unify and help each other.

We have had many people walk into our business and say, "I didn't know you had this". We believe there are many other businesses who have the same problem and it is our goal to connect more businesses to each other and bring respective clients to your doors as they find out what you have to offer.

Each monthly issue will feature a "Business Spotlight", with a focus on how a particular business got started, what they are providing and the journey to where they are today. We hope these feature articles inspire entrepreneurs to start businesses and help established businesses persevere and reach their potential. We will also feature business items of interest such as new businesses, businesses relocating or expanding, ribbon cuttings, grand openings and business news in general.

Another feature we are putting into every issue is the "Mystery Photo". This week's mystery photo is pictured on page 37. If you know or think you know, where the mystery photo is located, just call or text the number listed with the photo. All Correct Answers will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a gift certificate from a local business.

Want to advertise your business or services? Advertising details on page 38. All display ads will be in full color. A classified ad section may be found beginning on page 35. If you have questions, please call us at 217-543-2277 or email us at [thebusinessconnectionil@gmail.com](mailto:thebusinessconnectionil@gmail.com).

Thank you for your interest and support,  
Lonnie & Rose Gingerich  
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**On the Cover:** Mac Condill sets up a pumpkin display at the White House in 2012 - ***What is your dream?***

***Read Mac's story on page 4***



# EXPERIENCE ARTHUR

by Mac Condill

I am a lifelong resident of the Arthur area, living half of my life in greater Cadwell and the other half here in town. I am the President of the newly formed Simply Arthur Board and we have had a busy first 10 months of existence. From hiring two full time positions, one of which is a constant presence in the Welcome Center, to trying to make a more effective and efficient organization by combining the Arthur Area Economic Development Corporation and the Arthur Area Tourism Council. Simply Arthur is a local organization that focuses on economic development, tourism, and business advocacy. We meet monthly and our goal is to create opportunities for the Arthur area to communicate, collaborate, and listen to each other, all in an effort to create a strong, supportive local economy. We hope this article, which will come out every couple of weeks, will help shed a unique perspective on our community as we have guest writers submit their experience with Arthur. Last month, Mark Tupper shared how he has, and continues to, "experience Arthur". We hope this fresh perspective will serve as a reminder that we do a lot of things well, and should be very proud of this community and the way it works together, the services it offers, and the wonderful people that live and work here. One of our aims is to continue to embrace the entrepreneurial spirit that Area possesses.

As the owner of The Great Pumpkin Patch and The Homestead Bakery, I travel to many areas of Illinois and the country. It is always interesting to hear how other people have experienced Arthur. People have not only heard about our town, but have often visited for some reason or another. They proceed to tell me how much they loved our area and are surprised at the amount of goods and services we offer. We have a lot of fans out there. Fans that take great pleasure in sharing their experiences and how much they love our hometown. I am always impressed with how many people come into the Arthur area and how they move throughout the community. When I make deliveries to Country Salvage Store, Family Health Foods, and Shady Crest Market, I often run into the same cars in the parking lot that I just saw at the previous store. It certainly helps when us locals pass customers off to each other. It carries a lot of weight when local retail workers take the time to learn what the customer wants and helps them find their next destination. As the visitors move from place to place, they get to know our area better and become more comfortable consumers. Sometimes this takes a couple trips to our rural community. Once they feel comfortable, visitors spend more time and money. We should be trying to create fans of our business and area because fans routinely support their team, in this case Arthur. Let's make sure we are encouraging our customers to visit other local businesses, all the while creating, and being fans of each other. We may be surprised what an impact we can have on this Area and how big our fan base can become. GO ARTHUR AREA!



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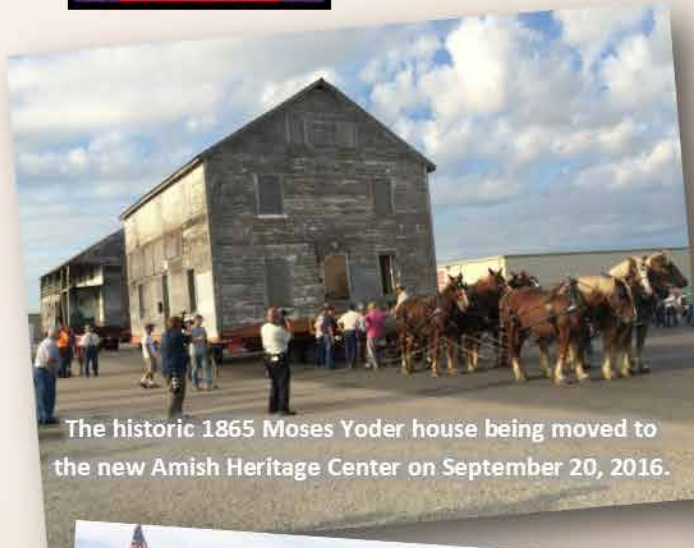
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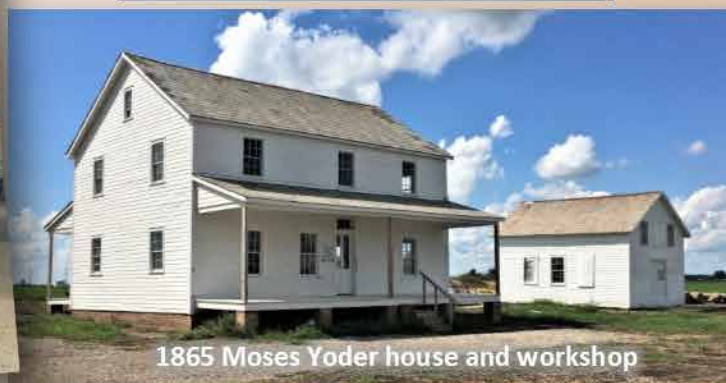


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# Illinois Amish Heritage Center Begins Fourth Year

The Illinois Amish Heritage Center located three miles east of Arthur, Illinois and six miles west of Arcola and I-57, is beginning its fourth year. Two historic Amish houses were moved to the five-acre site in September of 2016 and will be the main attraction at this new Amish heritage site.

The first house was built by Moses Yoder shortly after his arrival in Illinois in 1865. Yoder, Daniel Miller, and Daniel Otto and their families were the first Amish immigrants to settle near Arthur, Illinois in that year. Moses Yoder's house along with the second house built in 1882 by later immigrant Daniel Schrock were saved from demolition in 1999 and were in storage behind Yoder's Kitchen.

The Yoder house was moved part of the way to its new home with an eight-horse hitch of Amish horses on September 20, 2016. Both houses made the rest of the trip pulled by trucks to the new five-acre site located on the north side of Route 133 about a mile west of Chesterville between Arcola and Arthur.

The Moses Yoder and Daniel Schrock houses will be the centerpieces showcasing the area's Amish heritage. The Schrock house is nearing completion with the addition of a modern bathroom and kitchen. The Yoder house is still under restoration but is still open for tours during special events.

## Two Events Originally Planned for 2020

Two major special events were originally planned for 2020 at the Illinois Amish Heritage Center. The first event, "From Sheep to Clothing and Quilts," planned for Saturday June 6, has been CANCELLED due to the COVID 19 pandemic. This event normally features the process of taking wool from the sheep to spinning, weaving into cloth, and then being made into clothing and quilts.

The "4th Annual Steam Threshing Show" is scheduled to take place on the Heritage Center grounds this summer, on Friday, July 30 and Saturday, August 1. This may change, however, depending on the status of the pandemic. The event will involve an array of activities and demonstrations designed to show how crops were grown and harvested in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Amish continue using many of these methods in their farming operations today. The show continues to expand, and this year's show promises to be the biggest and best show yet!

As in past years the show will focus on the threshing of oats with an early 20th century threshing machine, belt driven by an early steam-powered tractor. An exciting addition in 2020 will be a threshing machine powered by five teams of horses along with steam and gasoline powered threshing machines.

Other demonstrations will involve various types of early horse-powered farm equipment, antique tractors, early engines, field demonstrations, and the "Parade of Power" each day. Craft booths, train rides, a petting zoo, activities for the kids, and tours of the historic houses will also be featured along with food booths and meals served in the newly concreted pavilion.



## 2020-2021 Goals

In 2020, plans call for a start of construction of a 9,600 square foot Visitor/Museum Center building which will feature an orientation film and exhibits that tell the history and story of the Amish culture. Current Amish culture will also be featured to give visitors an understanding of how the Amish live, work, play, and socialize today. The museum's gift shop will feature a wide range of locally made Amish quilts, crafts, foods, and other items.

Plans are also underway for the moving and restoration of an 1879 Amish barn that will serve as a focus for re-creating late 19th and early 20th century Amish agriculture. The barn will be dismantled, the timbers repaired and replaced as needed, and then re-erected during a community barn-raising. Another historic Amish building that will be moved to the site is a ca. 1900 Amish school.

The completion of a bathroom and modern kitchen facilities in the Schrock house will allow the site to host meetings, dinners, and educational programs, as well as interpreting the historic features of the house.

## Local Support Needed

Funding has already been raised in the local area for the restoration of the two historic Amish houses and other work completed to date. Fund-raising efforts began with a capitol campaign in 2018 and will continue into 2020 and beyond to fund the new visitor/museum center, barn, school, and needed staff. The whole project will cost over two million dollars, so everyone's support is crucial to the project's success.

## Benefits to Local Tourism

Successful Amish museums and heritage centers can be found in Amish communities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and other areas. An Amish Heritage Center for the Illinois Amish is long over-due. Over 220,000 tourists visit the Arthur Welcome Center each year. Most come to see Amish Country and the new Amish Heritage Center will give them an educational and enjoyable introduction for their visit to the area. The Center will work with other attractions, hotels, and businesses in the area to market tour packages, attract bus tours, and make Illinois Amish Country a major tourist destination. Moving the two historic Amish houses in 2016 was the first step in this exciting project for Illinois Amish country.

For more information, call Wilmer Otto at 217-721-9266. Also, look for the Illinois Amish Heritage Center at [www.illinoisamish.org](http://www.illinoisamish.org) and on Facebook.



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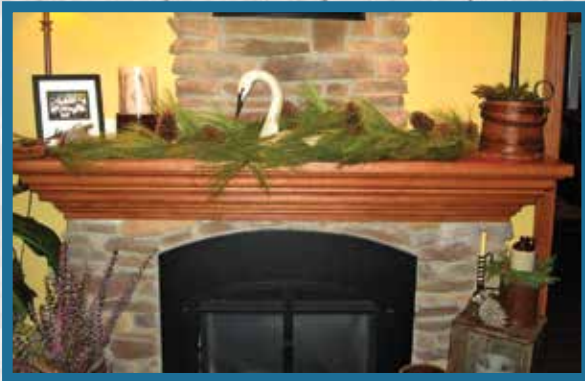
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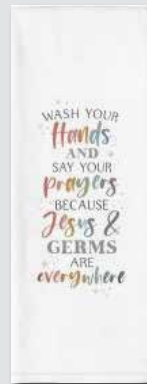
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# Business Spotlight

## **GRABER** **Building Supply**

As you travel on Jonathan Creek Road between Arthur and Sullivan, one can't miss the large business in operation on the east side of the road. Graber Building Supply & Graber Buildings have been a significant presence in the building industry for many years. They specialize in the erection of quality post frame buildings for farm, residential and commercial needs in the local and surrounding communities. A metal trim shop offers complete custom cutting and bending of trim. An experienced concrete crew provides all things concrete, from foundations to floors to driveways. In recent years they have expanded their operation to include concrete floor polishing and staining. Their lumber yard provides a full line of building materials, from wood posts to decorative stone veneers, from foundations to the finishing touches on any building project. A hardware store and home repair service completes the array of ways Grabers meets the needs of contractors and homeowners for miles around.

Harvey Farmwald, from Sullivan, IL, started Graber Building Supply in 1988. Graber Supply primarily provided materials for post frame buildings, selling complete building packages to contractors and do-it-yourself customers. Harvey's son, John, also got involved in the business, and in 1993, John purchased the business. Due to the growing demand to also provide erection service for the building packages he was selling, John hired Nelson Kauffman as a subcontractor in 1994.

Nelson and two sons and son-in-law built buildings for a couple years, but when Nelson's wife, Alta, lost her battle with cancer in 1996, he decided to get out of the business. His son, Noah, and son-in-law, Vern Kuhns, then assumed ownership of the construction business and established Kuhns Construction.



*Noah Kauffman & Vern Kuhns - owners*



*Aerial view of Graber Buildings & Graber Building Supply*

## **GRABER** **BUILDINGS INC.**

*Quality you can count on - from a name you can trust*



By 1999, the company had grown to employ two full-time buildings crews, with Noah overseeing the jobsites and Vern taking care of sales. That same year they established Graber Buildings Inc. and set up their headquarters at the same location occupied by Graber Building Supply, which is where they are still located today.

By 2003, amid a thriving economy and strong leadership, Graber Buildings had grown to employ three building crews. They also added their own concrete crew to be able to better manage their projects and serve their customers. In 2004, they added a trim shop, enabling them to custom cut and bend metal trim for their own jobs as well as providing trim for local contractors and homeowners.

Graber Building Supply continued a steady growth, gradually increasing their inventory and adding more buildings to meet the needs of an expanding customer base. In 2005, they built a showroom and added a hardware department.



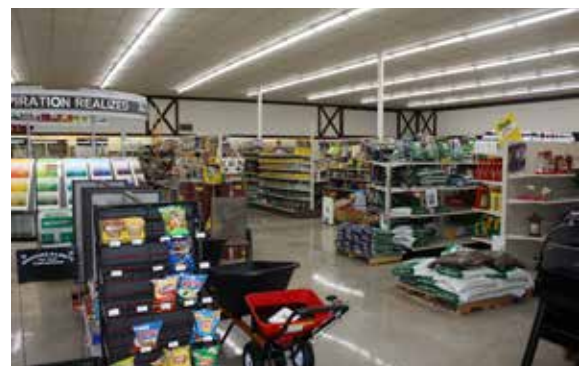
*Trim Shop*

John sold Graber Building Supply in 2014 to Graber Post Buildings, located in Montgomery, IN. John's son, Lamar, who was only eight years old when his father bought Grabers from his grandpa, then took over as manager of the business and still holds that position today. In 2018, Vern and Noah bought Graber Supply from Graber Post and thus two healthy and thriving businesses came under one ownership.

In an ongoing effort to better serve the community, Vern and Noah bought Arcola True Value in 2019 from Dan Curry. This hardware and home center business had been in the Curry family for 70 years. This acquisition gives Grabers a stronger market presence and enables them to increase the radius of their customer base. The Arcola location has undergone extensive renovations and now offers a full supply of lumber and other building essentials. They also offer complete onsite home repair including plumbing, electrical and HVAC.



*The new Graber Building Supply & Hardware - Arcola*





# Business Spotlight Continued

Today, Graber Buildings & Graber Supply are leaders in the east central IL building industry. They currently employ over 60 people, have five building crews on the road, offer a full line of building and hardware supplies and a home repair service crew. Whether the need is small or large, Grabers has proven over the last 32 years that they offer quality you can count on and a name you can trust.

In the words of Vern and Noah: We give the credit for our success to God, our employees and our customers. It's not because of us but because of the good people around us. We wouldn't be where we are today without the success of other businesses. We prosper when they prosper. In this day and age community is vital for all of us in business.



*Quality you can count on - from a name you can trust*



*Agriculture Buildings - Heritage Family Farms*



*Equine Buildings - Fred Helmuth*



*Municipal - Arthur Fire House*



*Commercial - Shady Crest Farm Market*



*Residential - Noah Kauffman*





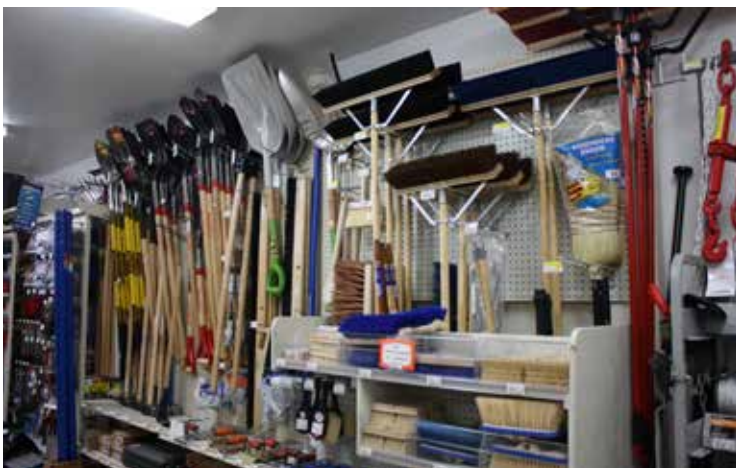
*Power tools & equipment*



*Graber Building Supply Showroom*



*Lumber yard*



*Full-service hardware tools and supplies*



*Boom Truck Delivery Services*



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### FEATURES

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- Installed With Our Super Screen
- Swinging Open Like Barn Doors
- No Visible Welds
- Heavy Duty Frame
- Light Weight



## Screen Doors

### FEATURES

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- ♦ All Aluminum
- ♦ Made To Withhold Bad Weather
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- ♦ Silver/Nein Standard Color
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- ♦ Custom Sizes Available
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- ♦ Screen Tested To Hold 1200 Lbs
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- ♦ No Visible Welds
- ♦ Designs Protect Bottom Screens
- ♦ All Doors Come With Door Sweep
- ♦ Screen Install To Handle Blunt Force



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Just off Rt. 57, nine miles West of Arcola,  
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From Arthur: 3 miles East on Rt. 133

[www.illinoisamish.org](http://www.illinoisamish.org)

Facebook: Illinois Amish Heritage Center

Instagram: il\_amish\_heritage\_center

## SHEEP TO CLOTHING TO QUILTS CANCELED

We have decided the COVID 19 pandemic poses too great a threat to the health and well-being of our volunteers and our visitors to hold our Sheep to Clothing to Quilts event planned for June 6. We had hoped to again have our unique pancakes, liverwurst, and local maple syrup, demonstrations of many old time farm crafts, and children's activities.

In the meantime, restoration work will continue on the two historic Amish houses at the site as well as planning for the construction of the new Information/Museum Center and moving a historic Amish barn to the site. In addition, we are working on increasing our on-line activities including fund-raising efforts.

We will all get through this together, and when it is safe, we will plan even better events at the Illinois Amish Heritage Center. Thank you for understanding.



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**Arthur  
Community  
Bank**

**We're here  
for  
YOU!**

These are challenging times, but we're in this together! While the way you bank has changed, we are still connected. From our digital banking resources to our individual assistance, let us help you navigate the financial effects of the coronavirus. Stay safe and well while knowing, we're here for you!



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201 South Vine . 217-543-3381 . [www.arthurbank.com](http://www.arthurbank.com)



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Arthur, IL 61911



# Winding Creek Stables

Presents

## MALABAR AQUA

SIRE: SAN PELLEGRINO

DAM: LADY LOVE MCBUR

3: 1:56 - \$182,664



SAN PELLEGRINO - 1996  
T - 30 1:57 .3M \$403,796

VALLEY VICTORY - 1986  
T - 3 1:56 .3M \$485,307

SELF-SUPPORTING - 1987  
T - 3 1:59 .2M \$20,127

MEADOW ROAD - 1979  
T - 6 1:54 .2M \$362,950

LADY LOVE MCBUR - 1989  
T - 3 2:07 .3H \$9,217

FICKLE YANKEE - 1980  
T - 5 1:57 .4F \$131,102

BALTIC SPEED - 1981  
T - 3 1:56 .0M \$1,271,764

VALLEY VICTORIA - 1981  
T - 3 2:00 .3F \$6,719

PRAKAS - 1982  
T - 3 1:53 .2M \$1,956,056

WORTH BEEIN' - 1981  
T - 3 1:58 .3M \$204,078

MADISON AVENUE - 1971  
T - 5 2:01 .0M \$44,529

FRANCESSA - 1967

SPEEDY CROWN - 1968  
T - 3 1:57 .1M \$545,495

YANKEE FLAIR - 1974

### TOP 10 FOALS

AQUANILLA	M
FIRST AQUA	G
MAJISTIC CAPRICE	G
BIG GARCIA VEGA	G
C J R BOZO	G
EC BIG GUY	H
INDEPENDENCE LILGAL	M
HS KARISSA	M
DRINKS ON BETSY	M
AQUARAIL	G

### RECORD

T 3, 1:55.2 S
T 7, 1:53.2 F
T 3, 1:56.2 M
T 2, 1:58.4 M
T 3, 2:03.3 H
T
T 3, 2:09.4 H
T 2, 2:11.4 H
T 2, 2:08.4 H
T 3, 2:01.2 F

### EARNINGS

\$195,377
\$115,537
\$113,385
\$52,891
\$39,323
\$10,486
\$8,236
\$8,181
\$6,746
\$4,534

### DAM

SOS VANILLASKY
CRYSTAS DREAM
TROPICAL CAPRICE
TROPICAL CAPRICE
CROWN THE WINNER
KC POPCICLE GRIN
LIL WEEZIE
FOX VALLEY GRETTA
DRINKS ON ME
OBLIGE ME

◆ On Farm or Shipped Semen ◆ Training ◆ Sale Prep

WINDING CREEK STABLES ~ Darrell Yoder - 217-543-2860



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128 oz (3.63 kg)

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30 lbs bucket

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### Knock Out Equine

1 gallon

Knock Out is a liquid probiotic based supplement to be fed in addition to any of the vitamin/mineral complexes. The various ingredients in Knock Out have been shown to stimulate nutrient absorption. Also aids in the purging of toxins. Use in young stock for added body systems support and mature stock as added immune system support.

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| Muscle Spasms | Hip Pain      |
| Neuralgia     | Leg Pain      |

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If Opportunity  
doesn't knock,  
build a door.

- Milton Berle

"Almost everything worthwhile carries with it some sort of risk, whether it's starting a new business, whether it's leaving home, whether it's getting married, or whether it's flying into space." - Chris Hadfield

*"Every problem is a gift—  
without problems we would not grow."*  
- Tony Robbins

"Success is not final; failure is not fatal:  
it is the courage to continue that counts."  
- Winston Churchill



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# The Kingdom Corner



## Sowing Seeds in a Famine

In early March of this year we signed a lease on a new printing system with more advanced capabilities that would enable and equip us to better meet the needs of a growing customer base. It seemed like a great time to expand with the economy thriving and demand for products increasing.

By the middle of the month however it began to look like the economy was going to take a hit because of the spread of the coronavirus. We were still busy, but was it going to remain that way? Obviously I began to question this decision and entertained anxious thoughts about the future. Likely you have also had some of these same thoughts yourself as a business owner or as a laborer concerned about the stability of your job. So what should our reaction be during seasons of uncertainty and potential economic decline such as we are in now?

In Biblical times, Isaac sowed seed during a famine (Genesis 26). It says he reaped a hundredfold from the seed he sowed because the Lord blessed him. It reads, he began to prosper, continued prospering until he became very prosperous. What a seemingly inopportune and unreasonable time to plant; few would say this was a good plan. What he did was completely dependent on a miracle and he received one in the form of a harvest in famine as a blessing from the Lord.

Can we apply this same principle to our own situations today as we live in unprecedented times? Unprecedented meaning it has never happened before, so we do not know what to expect or how to deal with these new challenges. By mid-March, I found myself sending an email to the vendor to postpone delivery of the new printing system, telling him let's wait for things to calm down. Going back to Isaac, we doubtlessly live in a different time and many things have changed since Bible times, but one thing that hasn't changed is God and the principles of His kingdom. He still has a desire to bless us and will continue right through this virus season.

Economic recession is largely influenced by fear of what might happen. Fear is contagious and has a domino effect as it invades culture. But fear is not a good barometer and never leads to good decisions. Did you know that there are a number of very large and long standing companies, like General Motors, IBM, Burger King and General Electric to name a few, that were founded during periods of economic recession?

In early April, I restarted the order for the new printer, believing along with my wife that now is the time to take action. If you are partnering with God in your business, now may be a good time to take a risk that requires a miracle. I'm not saying we should be irrational or not use common sense, but we also don't always want to play it safe either.

What risk can you take that gives God an opportunity to prove once again that He still blesses during a famine?

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## Mystery Photo Challenge



This photo was taken inside a business in the Arthur area. If you know or think you know, where the mystery photo is located, call or send a text message to 217-259-3442. All Correct Answers will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a gift certificate from a local business. Good Luck!



# The BUSINESS CONNECTION

## *Connecting the dots*

If you would like to run an advertisement in The Business Connection, please fill out the information below and return it to us to reserve your space in this publication. **Deadline for ads is the 20th of each month for the following month's issue.** Please email print-ready ads to [thebusinessconnectionil@gmail.com](mailto:thebusinessconnectionil@gmail.com).

Display Ads* (All ads will be in color)				
Ad Size:	1 Issue	3 Issues	6 Issues	12 Issues
Business Card	_____ \$40	_____ \$38	_____ \$36	_____ \$32
1/4 Page	_____ \$75	_____ \$71	_____ \$67	_____ \$60
Half Page	_____ \$150	_____ \$142	_____ \$135	_____ \$120
Full Page	_____ \$250	_____ \$237	_____ \$225	_____ \$200
Inside Front Cover	_____ \$400	_____ \$385	_____ \$375	_____ \$350
Inside Back Cover	_____ \$350	_____ \$335	_____ \$325	_____ \$300
Classified Ads	\$6 for 20 words* + 25¢ per additional word. (*Do not count contact info)			

*\*Prices are per issue and do not include ad design fee*



Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Issue(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like this magazine available for customers to pick up at my business.

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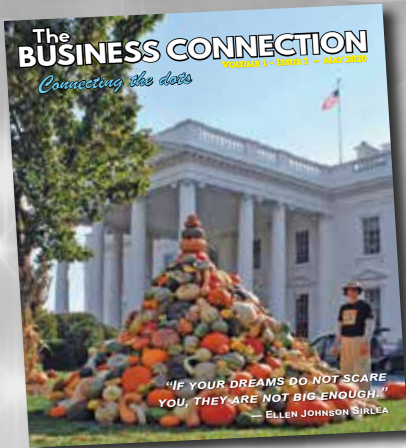


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