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# Just the Facts<sup>®</sup>

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348

Louridine Florek, owner

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

[www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

## 2012 USDA farm census shows fewer, bigger area farms

The number of farms in Vermilion County fell by 56 between the 2007 and 2012 USDA farm surveys, while our neighbors to the north lost only one.

The United States Department of Agriculture released final results of the 2012 survey on Friday, showing Vermilion County went from 1,014 farms in 2007 to 956 in 2012.

Land in farms dropped from 457,375 acres in 2007 to 434,406 in 2012, with average farm size increasing from 451 acres to 454.

In Iroquois County, the total number of farms fell from 1,471 to 1,470, with an average of 461 acres in 2007, compared to 455 in 2012.

In Vermilion County, the total market value of agricultural products sold was \$223,968,000 in 2007 and \$283,600,000 in 2012.

Of the 2007 total, \$213,861,000 came from crop sales and \$10,106,000 from livestock sales. In 2012, \$271,266,000 came from crop sales and \$12,334,000 from livestock, poultry and their products.

In Iroquois County, market value of products sold for 2012 was \$493,493,000, with \$426,369,000 from crop sales and \$67,124,000 from livestock, poultry and their

products.

The value is up compared to \$418,542,000 in 2007. Of that, \$332,082,000 was crop sales and \$86,460,000 was in livestock sales.

Average market value of products sold per farm was \$284,549 in Iroquois County in 2007 and \$335,709 in 2012.

In Vermilion, those numbers are \$296,663 for 2012 and \$220,875 in 2007.

Government payments to Vermilion County farmers totaled \$8,500,000 in 2007, or an average of \$10,065 per farm. In 2012, that number dropped to 7,122,000 and \$9,782 per farm.

In Iroquois County, 1,290 farms received government payments in 2012, totaling \$15,428,000 for an average of \$11,960. That number is up from 2007's \$12,595,000, or an average of \$10,028.

Corn for grain continues to be the top crop with 208,995 acres grown in Vermilion County in 2012, down from 242,106 acres in 2007.

While soybeans came in second with acres planted - 183,359 in 2012 - that number is up from 171,170 acres

See CENSUS on other side

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## Council expected to vote on budget containing needs, wants

Hoopeston City Council is expected to vote Tuesday on the 2014-15 budget containing both necessary items and a wish list.

The budget is up 12.81 percent over last year's and includes income of \$2,480,307 and expenses of \$2,280,942. With accruals and one-time expenses, the total increases by \$270,000, leaving a gap of \$70,635.

The council and Mayor Bill Crusinberry met April 22 to review submitted figures and make adjustments to balance the budget.

Among one-time expenses were things like mowers, trucks and a furnace at the fire station. Also included in the list were \$20,000 for a feasibility study to determine if Hoopeston would benefit from upscale housing; \$25,000 from Save the Lorraine Foundation for work on the former theater; \$100,000 to remove dilapidated housing; \$100,000 for the former Essex building if it were to be donated to the city; and \$25,000 for Christmas lights at McFerren Park, part of a \$350,000 planned project.

To balance the budget, money for the theater will be moved to the façade program; funds for dilapidated housing will be cut to \$25,000 and \$65,000 will be earmarked for the Essex building.

### Census continued from other side

in 2007.

Iroquois County also saw an increase in bean acreage, with 249,338 in 2012, up from 220,956 in 2007.

As for corn, Iroquois County had 392,462 acres of it in 2007. That number dropped to 353,558 in 2012.

In 2007, 845 operators reported farming as their principle occupation, with 626 having a different primary occupation. In 2012, those numbers were 808 and 662, respectively.

In Vermilion County, 358 and 247 for 2012 and 531 and 483 in 2007.

More census results are available at [www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/).

### Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 74. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 59. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 84, low 65.

The budget is also expected to include a two percent raise for employees.

Along with suggested cuts, the council is expected to add a \$2 fee to garbage rates, raising them to \$15 for residents and \$20 for those outside the city. Water rates will also triple for those living outside the city limits.

Also discussed at the budget meeting is a plan to put a sales tax increase before voters. The increase, one half of one percent (.005%).

Mayor Bill Crusinberry said at a mayoral forum before his last election that he wanted to put the tax hike to voters.

At the August 6, 2013 meeting, Alderman Randy Carter raised the issue, saying half of money raised would be used to tear down dilapidated housing and the other half to tear down dilapidated businesses.

At that meeting, Crusinberry said the increase would add 25 cents to a \$50 purchase.

### Police News



A 27-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 2:23 a.m. Sunday that someone took tools and checks from his home at Parkview Court.

Lanie G. Inglis, 19, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 10:55 a.m. to the 300 block of West Penn. She was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 39-year-old Hoopeston woman.

Inglis was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

## Classifieds

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