

**Heather Hampton+Knodle**

University of Illinois, B.S. Agricultural Communication, 1994

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Heather Hampton+Knodle has led national, regional, and statewide agricultural organizations; founded nonprofits for economic development and agriculture; served as an appointee on the Governor's Rural Affairs Council under four governors and an appointee by the Federal Communications Commission to lead working groups to accelerate broadband deployment and improve connectivity in rural America; served as the founding chairman of Montgomery CEO and the 11-county Central Illinois Economic Development Authority; serves on advisory boards for the National Science Foundation's AIFARMS Institute and Mississippi State's Ag Autonomy Institute as well as BioSTL's ReACH initiative; serves on the M&M FS Cooperative board; and farms corn, soybeans, wheat, and raises black Angus cattle with her four children while leading Starr Shooters 4-H Club in Montgomery County.