

Sawyer County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Ag Day at the Capitol Held January 29

Nearly 400 members of various farm and commodity groups attended Ag Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, January 29 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in downtown Madison.

It was there they heard from Governor Scott Walker who spoke about the importance of agriculture to Wisconsin stating that farming is a way of life and highlighted the opportunities available for young people throughout our community. Members also heard from WFBF Government Relations staff Paul Zimmerman and Karen Gefvert who briefed everyone about issues including implements of husbandry, animal welfare, raw milk and more.



Governor Scott Walker addressed farmers and agriculturists during Ag Day at the Capitol.

Following a briefing session at the Monona Terrace, members walked to the Capitol and met with local representatives about topics important to Wisconsin agriculture.

Cosponsors of the event with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation were: National Farmers Organization, Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association, Wisconsin Pork Association, Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association, Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, Wisconsin Soybean Association, Dairy Business Association, Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Horse Council, Wisconsin Women for Agriculture, Wisconsin Veal Growers Association and The Country Today newspaper. The Rural Mutual Insurance Company and GROWMARK Inc. were also major sponsors of the event.



Rusk County Farm Bureau members (L to R) Herb Stone, Paul Hetke, Jim Meng and Cindy Meng along with Sawyer County members Mike Robers and John Kauffman attended Ag Day at the Capitol. Following a briefing at the Monona Terrace, these members met with a staff person from Representative Mary Williams office and Senator Jerry Petrowski.

Thompson Retires from Rural Insurance after 46 Years



for your dedication to Farm Bureau and its members in Sawyer County.

Sawyer County Farm Bureau would like to congratulate Ralph Thompson on his retirement from Rural Mutual Insurance. He had offices in Winter and Hayward and started his career with Rural Mutual on September 1, 1967. Eight times he was recognized as Agent of the Year. He won the Blue Vase Life Insurance Service Award in 1983 and received his Chartered Life Underwriter designation in 1985. Thank you, Ralph,

We Need You!

The strength of any organization is in its membership. One of the goals of your Sawyer County Farm Bureau board of directors is to strengthen membership. Its intent is not just in numbers but to strengthen the involvement and knowledge of the current members we already have. We need to be developing members who will be interested in 'taking their turn' as a board member, putting this great organization to work right here in Sawyer County.

We also need members willing to be active, representing agriculture in an accurate and positive light, again, right here in Sawyer County. Whether it be decisions being made in your township, the protection of ag land or even the right to farm, we as farmers need to be involved in the decision making and in the shaping of public perception of today's farmer. Legislation and education are both key areas where we need you to be involved! Contact any board member for more information on how you can become involved.



MARCH 2014

COUNTYnews

SAWYER COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Highlights from the WFBF Annual Meeting

More than 1,100 farmers and agriculturists attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference. Some of the best and brightest competed in a variety of contests and awards, and member delegates set policy directives our organization. Serving as delegates from Sawyer County were Dale Beissel and Mike Robers. Keynote speakers this year were Dr. Jude Capper, who spoke about animal agriculture and sustainability, and American Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman,



Mike Robers (left) and Dale Beissel served as delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting where they discussed and voted on policy related to transportation, conservation and wildlife.

Of the members there, more than 120 members were from District 9 including members from the Collegiate Farm Bureau at UWRF. Congratulations to everyone who was recognized throughout the weekend! Here is a list of the District 9 highlights:

- WFBF District 9 Director Jim Holte was re-elected WFBF President.
- District 9 YFA Representative and Committee Chair, Teresa Hanson gave her retiring address and was thanked for her service on the board. Katie Mattison of Dunn County replaces her as the District 9 Representative.



State YFA Chair Teresa Hanson was presented with a retiring plaque by WFBF President Jim Holte during the opening session of the YFA Conference.

who updated members on current agriculture issues that are being worked on. The Farm Bureau Extravaganza took place on Saturday night with James Wedgwood providing the entertainment.



Roger Cliff (at podium) retired after 40 years of service at Wisconsin Farm Bureau. To honor him, the 40 by 40 Campaign was developed to raise \$40,000 by the Annual Meeting. At the meeting, WFBF President Jim Holte (left), Foundation Director Darlene Arneson and new CAO Steve Freese presented a check totaling more than \$50,000! Thank you to Sawyer County Farm Bureau for their contribution to this effort.

- YFA State Discussion Meet participants who represented our district were: Cindy Bourget, Dunn; Kirsten Konder, St. Croix and Julie Wadzinski, Barron.
- Producer Club members (members signing five or more new members) were: Greg Zwald, St. Croix, Dean Bergseng and Jacki Roden, Pierce, Karyn Schauf, Barron, Jim Meng, Rusk, and Dale Quilling, Dunn.
- Jacki Roden, Pierce and Jim Meng, Rusk were made it in WFBF's Top 10 Membership Workers.
- Sam Olson of Barron County competed in the Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet finals.



More than 50 YFA members from District 9 attended the YFA Conference which included guest speakers, workshops, networking and more.

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District Coordinator's Message



and YFA Conference and it shows that members are willing to get involved and let their voices be heard in this grassroots organization.

Greetings Farm Bureau members! This is the first newsletter of the New Year and I hope it finds you well. District 9 has a lot to be proud of in its accomplishments this past year. Members have been active and engaged in a variety of activities including YFA tours and socials, membership work and county committees. There was record attendance at this year's WFBF Annual Meeting

We are also proud of our Collegiate Farm Bureau members who are working hard to plan their Ag Day on Campus where they will educate faculty and students about the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. I know that many of you may know a student at UW-River Falls. Encourage them to participate in Collegiate Farm Bureau and be a part of sharing agriculture's story.

As we look ahead, I am eager to see what every county has in store. District 9 has made significant strides in involving and recruiting young farmer and agriculturist members and increasing the involvement in Ag in the Classroom activities and programs. Each county would not be successful without the participation of its members. Think about what you can do to make a difference. It may be an afternoon volunteering

to talk about your farm operation with fourth graders at your local school, serving on a county committee or spending the day with other farmers and agriculturalists speaking with legislators about topics important to our community. Maybe you can give one hour, one day or one week. We are only as strong as the members who make up our organization.

Thank you for your participation. I am looking forward to seeing many of you throughout the year as we continue to work together to promote the agriculture community. Please feel free to contact me with comments, questions or concerns at 866.355.7349 or wkannel@wfbf.com.

Wendy Kannel
WFBF District 9 Coordinator

Farm Bureau Welcomes Rural Agents to Sawyer County

Sawyer County Farm Bureau is excited to welcome new Rural Agents to Hayward.



Pat Gillis was born and raised in Hayward. After graduating from UW-La Crosse in 1985, he became the finance manager at an automobile dealership in La Crosse, and eventually moved back to Hayward and the family-owned automobile dealership, which he helped run the last 10 years until it closed in 2009. Pat became an agent with Rural Mutual Insurance in 2010, first in Eau Claire, then Ashland and finally in Hayward where he has taken over as the agent for half of retired Ralph Thompson's clients. Pat enjoys the outdoors, especially shoveling (maybe not), a nice morning walk or jog, and playing a round of golf with his son. Pat loves working with clients to help them protect what's important to them whether its their farm, home, vehicles or business. Pat also offers life insurance products from Farm Bureau Life Insurance and is certified in Long Term Care insurance. Pat's office is located behind Perkins in Hayward at 15561 Railroad Street, Suite 203B. His office phone is 715.934.2400 and cell number is 715.492.9087.

Erin Metcalf and her family reside in Hayward and have been lifelong residents. She enjoys the outdoors, such as snowshoeing, snowmobiling, gardening and traveling. She has 17 years of insurance experience. Erin's office is located behind Perkins in Hayward at 15561 Railroad Street, Suite 203B. She can be reached at emetcalf@ruralins.com or 715.934.2100.



Dale Thompson started his career with Rural Mutual Insurance in January, 1997. Prior to his father's retirement in January of this year, Dale operated his office in Rice Lake in Barron County. He lives in southern Sawyer County with his wife and 3 daughters and is active in the Winter School District as a board member as well as being a supervisor on the Sawyer County Board. Dale's hobbies include hunting, fishing and raising pheasants on the farm. Dale's office is located at 15826 2nd Street in Hayward and can be reached at 715.634.3423 or dthompson@ruralins.com.

YFA Members Tour 45th Parallel

Young Farmer and Agriculturist members from across District 9 toured the 45th Parallel Distillery in New Richmond on February 22. Using the highest quality of grain produced by a local farmer, the distillery takes personal care in the process as they patiently ferment the mash and slowly distill in small batches to avoid unwanted flavor.

For more information about the distillery, visit their website at 45thparallel-distillery.com. For more information about YFA activities and events, contact District 9 YFA Representative Katie Mattison or WFBF District 9 Coordinator Wendy Kannel.



More than 20 YFA members enjoyed a tour at 45th Parallel which ended with a session in the tasting room.

Mattison New District 9 YFA Representative



Hello, I am Katie Mattison, your new District 9 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Representative. I want to take a little time to introduce myself and share a little bit about me. I grew up on an elk farm in Polk County and as a youngster I was involved in 4-H and FFA. After high school, I attended UW-River Falls and graduated with a bachelor's degree in agriculture business and a minor in animal science. After graduating college, I took a position with Badgerland Financial, part of the farm credit system, in Fond du Lac and spent five years there prior to moving back up north in the beginning of 2013. I now work for WESTconsin Credit Union in Menomonie.

My involvement in Wisconsin Farm Bureau began in 2010 when I attended my first YFA event in Fond du Lac County. Since then, Wisconsin Farm Bureau has been a part of my life. I served in Fond du Lac on the Fond du Lac County YFA committee. Last year I participated in Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute Class VII and graduated at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

I have a passion for agriculture and I am extremely excited to be serving such a great organization. I look forward to meeting and working with everyone in District 9 for the next three years. If you have any questions, comments or ideas please feel free to contact me by phone or text at 715.418.0975 or by email at katielm83@gmail.com.

A District 9 Woman Rooted in Agriculture

A "Farm Girl" at heart, Monica Krings has enjoyed being involved in Farm Bureau. From Ag in the Classroom to beef promotions, attending district and state women's events and volunteering at the milk stand at the Pierce County Fair, Monica volunteers her time as the Women's chair of the Pierce County Farm Bureau.

After retiring as a secretary in the Plum City School District, a role she held for 33 years, Monica spends her "free time" as the clerk for the Town of Union, is involved in her church and is a ticket-taker for ball games at school. She and her husband John have been married for 46 years and have three children and three grandchildren.

When asked what makes her excited about the future of women in agriculture, she states, "Since I have been involved in farming all my life and love being in the tractor or helping out, I feel women are a valuable asset to farming. I see where many large farms employ women. The reason for this is because they have patience, understanding and are willing to work hard. Also, behind a successful man is a good woman."



There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

Auto	Health	Supplies and Products
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Communication	• Stroke Detection Plus	• FS-GROWMARK Patronage
• AgriVisor (NEW)	Insurance	• Grainger
• The Country Today	• Rural Mutual Insurance Company	• Office Depot
Financial	• Farm Bureau Financial Services	Travel
• AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program	Protection	• AAA
• Farm Bureau Bank	• \$500 Reward Protection Program	• AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
	• Accidental Death Policy	• Choice Hotels International, Inc.
		• Wyndham Hotel Group

For complete details visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

Sawyer County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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Women's Chair, Joan Henchel	715.462.4608
Director, Marty Ewert	715.558.3524
Director, Jim Henchel	715.462.4608
Director, John Kauffman	715.943.2285
Director, Ted Mataczynski	715.943.2353
Sawyer County Farm Bureau	866.355.7347
RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax	715.514.4477
WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte	715.835.6708
YFA Committee Chair, Katie Mattison	715.418.0975
Women's Committee Chair, Mary Prestrud	715.455.1495
District 9 Coordinator, Wendy Kannel	866.355.7349

UWRF Collegiate Farm Bureau Update

By Jennifer Kuffel, UWRF Collegiate Farm Bureau President

The Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter at UW-River Falls is off to another great start! With nearly 70 people attending the first meeting of the school year, we have been able to plan and implement a variety of activities. In September we assisted White Pine Berry Farm with their Family Fun Day. Members helped with pumpkin painting, the petting zoo and a variety of other activities held that day. During the evening, our chapter hosted a barn dance and cookout for all students from the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES). It included our dinner guests of Alice in Dairyland, a local horticulturist and a local honey bee keeper who spoke on an array of agricultural topics and encouraged those in attendance to get involved in the agriculture industry. More than 100 students were in attendance!



Forty-five members from the Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-River Falls attended the YFA conference. Members listened to keynote speakers, participated in a variety of workshops and had the opportunity to network with other Farm Bureau members.

represented during the state event as 45 members participated in workshops, listened to speakers and worked a booth at the trade show. All attendees expressed great feedback and look forward to next year's conference. A big thank you goes to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company for providing support for our members to attend this event.

The second semester commenced on January 27 and our biggest event of the year, Ag Day on Campus, will be taking place in late spring. Members will be working diligently until then planning the day's events, gathering donations and promoting on campus. It is a great opportunity for us to tell our agricultural stories and be a part of the conversation. Throughout second semester we are also planning a few other activities including a production tour, snow tubing and end of the year picnic.

Thank you to all Farm Bureau members for your support of Collegiate Farm Bureau! We look forward to continued success!

This was followed by our Collegiate Discussion Meet in which we had five contestants. Sam Olson, a student from Barron County and Shea Esser, a student from Grant County represented our chapter at the state meet that was held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference. UW-River Falls was well



Collegiate Farm Bureau members posed with Alice in Dairyland, Kristin Olson, who served as a guest speaker during a dinner and barn dance for CAFES students this fall at White Pine Berry Farm.

Farm Succession Workshop Held

Rusk and Sawyer County Farm Bureau's sponsored a Farm Succession and Estate Planning workshop on January 24 at the Cedar Lodge in Ladysmith. It was there that attendees heard from Attorney Rick Bollenbeck and Jared Nelson from Farm Bureau Financial Services who discussed viable solutions to business and estate succession issues many Wisconsin farm families face. The presentation explored how to be fair to your children in passing the business to your business heir(s), while also providing a fair inheritance to your non-active children, how to surmount common estate-tax traps, making sure you and your spouse are prepared for retirement and the potential need for long-term care, and how to assemble and work with a team of professional advisors.

If you were unable to attend the workshop and would like more information on this issue, contact your Rural Mutual Insurance Agent or Wendy Kannel, District 9 Coordinator at 866.355.7349.



Attorney Rick Bollenbeck shared with workshop attendees what they could do to prepare to move farm businesses from one generation to the next.

Leaders Attend Council of Presidents



Farm Bureau leaders attending Council of Presidents from District 9 were (front L to R) Paul Hetke (Rusk County), Karyn Schauf (Barron County), Geri Wolfe (Dunn County), Mary Prestrud (Dunn County), Dave Kruschke, (St. Croix County) (back L to R) District 9 Coordinator Wendy Kannel, Mike Robers (Sawyer County), Jim Melin (Polk County), Cindy Meng (Rusk County), Jim Meng (Rusk County) and Marv Prestrud (Dunn County).

Farm Bureau leaders from around Wisconsin gathered in Madison for the annual Council of Presidents. Attending from Sawyer County was Mike Robers.

During the two day event, leaders heard Bruce Jones speak about the status of Wisconsin agriculture, WFBF CAO Steve Freese highlighted the upcoming strategic planning process and Peter Pelizza gave an update on Rural Mutual Insurance Company. County Farm Bureau's shared their program success stories as part of the County Activities of Excellence program and the meeting concluded with Pam Jahnke, the Fabulous Farm Babe, encouraging everyone to tell their story, share what happens on their farms and educate those who are not familiar with where their food comes from.

Photos Wanted!

Have a cool photo to share?

Send it to ssutton@wfbf.com and you could be featured in the next issue of Rural Route!

