

Barron County Farm Bureau

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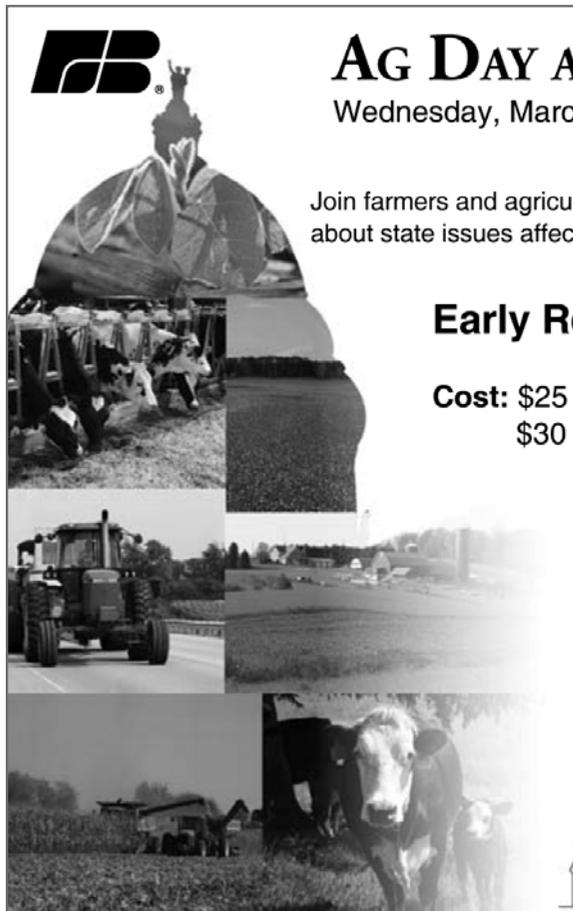
RURAL MUTUAL AGENTS IN BARRON COUNTY

Eva Curtis (715) 736-2498 **Greg Hayes** (715) 736-2498

Laurie Peterson, District Manager - (715) 514-447

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Mark Your Calendars for Ag Day at the Capitol



 **AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL**
Wednesday, March 8 • Monona Terrace Convention Center,
1 John Nolen Drive, Madison

Join farmers and agriculturists from across Wisconsin in Madison and learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and meet with our state legislators.

Early Registration Deadline: March 1

Cost: \$25 per person by registration deadline.
\$30 after deadline and at the door.

Schedule of Events:

- 11:00 a.m. Registration
- 11:30 a.m. Opening Program
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing
- 3:00 p.m. Capitol Visits

 **AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL**

Ride the Bus to Ag Day at the Capitol

Don't want to drive yourself or worry about parking?

Ride the bus to Ag Day at the Capitol!

Bus Schedule

Depart:

6:30 a.m. **Baldwin:** Park and Ride, south of McDonald's

7:05 a.m. **Menomonie:** Walmart parking lot, west side

7:45 a.m. **Eau Claire:** Walmart parking lot, off Highway 53
and Golf Road

8:15 a.m. **Osseo:** Osseo Inn parking lot

8:40 a.m. **Hixton:** Hixton Travel Plaza

9:40 a.m. **Tomah:** McDonald's by Greyhound pickup area,
There will be a 15-minute break.

11:15 a.m. Arrive at Monona Terrace Convention Center.

5:30 p.m. Load bus and return home.

Note: Barron County Farm Bureau has money available for sponsorship of members to attend Ag Day at the Capitol.

To reserve your seat, please contact District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison at 866.355.7349 or kmattison@wfbf.com. Indicate which location you want to be picked up at.

Registrations are limited so reserve your seat today.



COUNTYnews

BARRON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Highlights from the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference

Tradition

More than 1,100 farmers and agriculturists from across Wisconsin attended the WFBF Annual Meeting, YFA Conference and Rural Mutual Insurance Company Annual Meeting on December 2-5 in Wisconsin Dells. Delegates from Barron County included Julie Wadzinski, Tom Perlick and Eric Bechel.

The YFA Conference provided more than 490 young farmers and agriculturalists (ages 18-35) from around the state with an opportunity to network and gain information to benefit their farms and families. In addition, some of the best and brightest YFA members competed in a variety of contests.

Farm Bureau member delegates adopted policies that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization in 2017. Resolutions submitted by delegates were part of a grassroots policy development process addressed topics including:

- Natural resources and the environment.
- 2018 Farm Bill, including a need for improvements to the Dairy Margin Protection Program.

- Improving and upgrading broadband in rural areas.
- Disclosure of wolf incidents on farms in Wisconsin by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
- Livestock, animal welfare and common animal husbandry practices.

Delegates from the Farm Bureau's 61 county Farm Bureaus also voted to:

- Support the state's livestock premise registration program.
- Support the state's fence law.
- Support a process by which atrazine restricted areas can be repealed.
- Support the inclusion of wild parsnip on the noxious weed list.
- Support funding for the Environmental Education Board.
- Support DNR using and implementing more technology for the wildlife abatement and claims program.
- Clarifying WFBF's policy position pertaining to foreign land ownership restrictions to also include foreign entities.

At the close of the WFBF Annual Meeting, Elk Mound farmer Jim Holte was re-elected to serve a fifth term as president of WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Holte also was re-elected to a three-year term on the WFBF Board of Directors representing District 9.



Logan Dwyer and Amber Johnson attended the YFA Conference on a sponsorship from Rural Mutual Insurance Company.



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Eric Bechel, Julie Wadzinski and Tom Perlick served as the delegates for Barron County Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting.



Barron County YFA members who attended were: (L-R): Amber Johnson, Logan Dwyer, Eric Bechel, Joe Braml and Julie Wadzinski.



District 9 was well represented by Young Farmers and Agriculturists.

Welcome New Members

Emily Achivida, Luanne Bauer*, Donald Bergstrom, Garnet Bronstad, Rick Dandeneau, Thomas Gerlach*, Jeremy Gowin, Bruce Hanson*, Amber Johnson, Doug Kucko*, Judy Lindsley, Dena Lorenz*, Valerie Michaels, Rachelle Riedelsperger, Scott Roppe, Jim Schmitz*, Bradley Skar, Steven Skoug*, Tim Stauner*, Jonathan Synder and Allen Widiker*.

*Denotes voting membership.

President's Message



I might be the last to wish you a Happy New Year but I do think it's worth repeating.

I think a lot of us have a renewed sense of hope that some things may change in a new way with the new administration.

This time is such a busy time with a lot of opportunities for learning, planning and promoting. This newsletter is full of choices. I hope we will see you at some of them. If you haven't been to Ag Day at the Capitol, this may be a good year to go.

I enjoy working with the Barron County Farm Bureau board members. We recently completed our goals for the year. Many of them focus on promoting agriculture and developing leadership within our membership. The board members meet the second Monday of each month, usually in the east conference room of the Government Center at 7:45 p.m. Join us some time. You are welcome to come, listen and share from your side of the fence.

Looking for a (short) summer job? We're looking for someone to help run the Farm Bureau food stand at the fair in July! Perhaps you know of a college age son or daughter who may be interested. Or possibly you or your spouse. Some time for planning ahead of the fair is required, a commitment to safe,

quality food and then five days, with lots of help of course, plus reimbursement. Please contact me if you are interested.

Red Cedar Conference

The 2017 Red Cedar Watershed Conference is on **March 9**. Almost all of Barron County is in the Red Cedar Watershed and it's important to have a strong farmer presence at this conference. The Farmers of the Barron County Watershed will pay for Barron County farmers who attend and register by **March 1**. Registration can be found online.

Karyn Schauf

Barron County Farm Bureau President

Teresa Marker Wins Farm Bureau's Excellence in Agriculture Award Watershed Conference Slated for March 9



Barron County Farm Bureau member Teresa Marker is the winner of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Excellence in Agriculture Award at the organization's 97th Annual Meeting.

agricultural education with a minor in animal science from UW-River Falls. She works as a livestock nutritionist for Crystal Creek Natural, LLC, in Spooner.

Marker serves on the Barron County Farm Bureau board of directors and was elected the Ag in the Classroom chair. Marker has served on the state YFA Committee and was the committee chair in 2013.

She lives in Shell Lake with her husband Dustin and son Jared.

Marker competed in the national Excellence in Agriculture contest at the AFBF's 98th Annual Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. She also will be a guest of the WFBF's YFA Conference in the Wisconsin Dells in December.

Marker also received a \$250 FS Fast Stop gift card from GROWMARK, Inc., and will be a guest at its annual meeting in Chicago in August. She also qualifies for the YFA Washington, D.C., trip in 2018.

The Excellence in Agriculture Award goes to a Farm Bureau member between the ages of 18 and 35 who is actively engaged in agriculture, but derives the majority of their income from an off-farm agricultural career. The winner is selected based on their knowledge of agriculture, leadership in Farm Bureau and other civic organizations.

Marker grew up on her family's dairy farm in Elk Mound. After high school, she earned a degree in

Thursday, **March 9**, is the 6th annual Red Cedar Watershed Conference, when people from across the Red Cedar Watershed will come together to discuss soil health and water quality. It will be at the Memorial Student Center at UW-Stout in Menomonie. The Farmers of the Barron County Watershed will sponsor Barron County farmers who want to attend and register by **March 1**.

For more information, visit www.uwstout.edu/profed/redcedar or contact Karyn Schauf at 715.537.9376.

Scholarships Available from Farm Bureau



The Barron County Farm Bureau will award three, \$250 scholarships for high school seniors. The scholarships are open to students with preference given to students from Farm Bureau families and will be based on the student's past school and community activities, plans for future education and a recommendation.

For an application, visit wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/barron or contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 866.355.7349 or kmattison@wfbf.com. Application deadline is **April 1**.



Barron County YFA invites you to a

Curling and Pizza Party

Saturday, February 11
1-2:30 p.m. - Curling
Pizza afterwards

Rice Lake Curling Club
912 S. Wisconsin Avenue
Rice Lake, WI 54868

Pizza Hut
2395 S. Main Street
Rice Lake, WI 54868



Join us for an afternoon of curling, pizza and fun with Barron County YFA members!

At 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 11, join other Barron County Farm Bureau young farmers and agriculturists for an afternoon of winter fun as we go curling at the Rice Lake Curling Club. Afterwards, we will meet at Pizza Hut for pizza and more fun.

Bring a friend who is not a Farm Bureau member and if you sign them up for Farm Bureau membership, you will receive \$20.

This event is FREE for Barron County YFA members.

For more information, directions, questions or to RSVP by **February 8**, please contact Joe Braml at jbraml@gmail.com or 715.495.5706 (call or text).

Upcoming Workshops By Tim Jergenson, UW-Extension Barron County Agriculture Agent

CAFO Workshop: The Confined Animal Feed Operation (CAFO) workshop sponsored by UW-Extension will be at WITC, 1900 College Drive, in Rice Lake on **Thursday, February 9**, with lunch at 11:30 a.m. This workshop is intended for Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permitted CAFO owners, managers, consultants, nutrient management plan writers and key staff. It is presented by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection and UW-Extension. Farmers considering a CAFO permit are encouraged to attend. CEU credits are available for Certified Crop Advisors. To register, contact the Barron County UW-Extension Office at 715.537.6250.

Grain Management in Low-Margin Years: UW-Extension in Barron and Chippewa Counties will offer crop farmers the opportunity to focus on those management practices that will enable you to not only survive financially, but thrive in 2017. The program is **Monday, February 13**, at the Conference Center at the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, 1900 College Drive in Rice Lake starting at 10 a.m. and ending at 2:30 p.m. **Cost:** \$15 per person and includes presentation handouts and lunch. AgStar is a co-sponsor. For more information,

contact the Barron County UW-Extension Office at 715.537.6250 or the Chippewa County UW-Extension Office at 715.726.7950.

Topics and Presenters

- *Soybean Inputs that Deliver the Highest ROI in a Low-Margin Year*, Shawn Conley, UW agronomy, soybean and small grains specialist.
- *Practical Weed Management for Low-Margin Years*, Dan Smith, UW, southwest regional specialist.
- *Fundamental Soil Fertility Strategies for Success*, Carrie Laboski, UW soil science, soil fertility/nutrient management specialist.
- *How to Survive and Thrive on Corn Price Projections*, Joe Lauer, UW agronomy, corn specialist.
- *Low Grain Prices = Smart Disease Management Decisions*, Damon Smith, UW plant pathology, field crops pathology specialist.
- *Managing Insects Economically using Conventional Hybrids and Thresholds*, Bryan Jensen, UW entomology, field crops entomology specialist.
- *Machinery/Technology Management and Tillage Considerations to Reduce Operational Costs*, Francisco Arriaga, UW soil science, soil science specialist and Brian Luck, UW biological system engineering, machinery specialist.
- *Partial Budget Analysis: A Practical Tool for Low Margin Years*, Paul Mitchell, UW ag and applied econ, cropping systems specialist.

The order of presentations is subject to change, but all topics will be covered by the presenter listed. Some presentations may be delivered via pre-recorded video.

UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau Success



In December, UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau members enjoyed the YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

The first semester for the UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau was filled with events. To kick off, we offered members free cheese curds from Ellsworth Creamery for attending the first meeting.

We volunteered at White Pine Berry Farm's Fall Family Day and ended the day with a barn dance.

The next event was the UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet with contestants Matt Kortbein, Sally Albers and Makayla Klumphyan. Matt and Sally advanced and in February, Sally will represent Wisconsin in the national col-

legiate Discussion Meet at the AFBF FUSION Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

We also held a showing of *Farmland* and plan another showing this spring. Members volunteered for Feed My Starving Children in Eagan, Minnesota and 105 people packed meals to feed 77 people for a year.

YFA Conference rounded out the semester with 21 members attending. They enjoyed the conference and look forward to attending next year.

Ag Day will be on **April 18**. Agriculture-related clubs and businesses come together to teach people about agriculture. If you want to participate as business, educational stand or donate in any way please contact us at uwrfcb@gmail.com.

As a chapter, we look forward to volunteering more, welcoming speakers and more educational opportunities for members. We appreciate the support from WFBF.

Meet: Kay Gilbertson, District 9 Promotion and Education Chair



Kay Gilbertson was elected to represent District 9 on the Promotion and Education Committee.

Kay lives in Elk Mound with her husband Kevin and their three children: Brandon, Bailey and Kaleb, who are involved in their farm, FFA, 4-H, church and school activities.

They are members of Dunn County Farm Bureau and Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin. The couple is in partnership with Kevin's family on the family farm, Gilbertson Farms. They milk 475 cows and grow crops on 1,900 acres.

Kay serves as the Dunn County Ag in the Classroom coordinator, general leader of Elk Meadow 4-H club and as Sunday school superintendent. She is an alumna of UW-River Falls, where she earned a bachelor's degree in animal science.

Meet: Julie Wadzinski, District 9 Young Farmer and Agriculturalist Chair



Hello District 9! I am Julie Wadzinski and I will represent District 9 on the YFA Committee for the next three years.

I am originally from Marathon County, where I grew up on my family's 400-head Century dairy farm. In 2006, my family sold our dairy cows.

In May of 2016, I accepted a position with Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College as a farm business production management instructor. Currently, I reside in Barron County.

In my spare time, I enjoy creating memories with my son, Bryan. I also enjoy reading, crocheting, gardening and outdoor adventures.

One of my passions is agricultural advocacy and sharing the ag story with consumers in addition to advocating for fair policy. I sought out training opportunities for advocacy and hope to use and hone those skills and passion on the YFA committee.

I earned a bachelor's degree in dairy science from UW-River Falls and was hired as a livestock nutritionist at Crystal Creek.

Farmers of Barron County Watershed Update By Andy Bensed

During mid-December, producers involved in efforts to make a positive impact on Wisconsin water quality and farm economics attended two days of discussion on the activities of Wisconsin Discovery Farms and those of the state's farmer-led watershed groups. Some takeaway messages include:

Don Flaten from the University of Manitoba shared his research findings on what impacts phosphorus leaving the flat prairies of his states finding its way into the area's prairie lakes. While vegetative buffers work well during the growing season, they are of little value during the frozen soil time frame each year. Most of the phosphorus entering the surface waters is dissolved phosphorus that moves off the land during the spring thaw. Capturing this phosphorus is difficult and the largest influence is land spreading of manure during the time frame. Cover crops, no tillage and injecting manure can help but a multi-faceted approach will be needed in these flat prairies.

A panel of farmers who use cover crops shared their experiences using cover crops on their own farms. It's not as important that you know all there is to know about using cover

crops as it is that you begin small and learn through your own experiences. Most successes are different and evolve from the lessons learned by failures to one degree or another.

Another panel of dairy farmers shared experiences with manure management. There are good ways to manage manure applications with newer equipment designed to place manure beneath the soil without tillage or mechanical incorporation. These practices go a long way in mitigating dissolved phosphorus as well as particulate phosphorus leaving the farm.

The farmer led watershed groups in Wisconsin shared with each other about their efforts to promote soil quality, reduce phosphorus movement off-farm, educate both farm and non-farm folks, establish and manage cover crops and share how they will forge ahead with each area efforts to make a lasting impact on the health of agriculture and the environment.

If you are interested in supporting or being involved in the Farmers of Barron County Watershed, please contact Craig Hamernik, Clayton Wohlk, Karyn Schauf or Andy Bensed.

Barron County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Karyn Schauf 715.537.9376
Vice President, Dan Ripplinger 715.469.3563
Secretary/Treasurer, Teresa Marker 715.829.5584
YFA Chair, Joe Braml

Director, Kim Barta 715.234.4808
Director, Trevor Kodesh 715.931.7490
Director, James Kusilek 715.205.8840
Director, Samuel Olson 715.977.1060

Barron County Farm Bureau 877.483.5447
WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte 715.835.6708
District 9 YFA Chair, Julie Wadzinski 715.432.8740
District 9 Promotion and Education Chair, Kay Gilbertson 715.271.8141
District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison 866.355.7349
RMIC District Manager, Laurie Peterson 715.514.4477

'Like' Barron County Farm Bureau on Facebook.



Are You Farm Bureau Proud?

Farm Bureau stands up for farmers' rights to farm. If you are proud of that, share it with your friends and neighbors by signing as members. There are many incentives for signing up new members to Farm Bureau.



- \$20 for each new member signed.
- **2x4:** Sign up 2 new members by April 1 and you will be awarded with Farm Bureau work gloves.
- **5x5:** Sign up 5 new members by May 1 and you will be awarded with a Farm Bureau Proud Carhartt vest.
- **8x8:** Sign up 8 new members by August 1 and you will be awarded with a Farm Bureau farm sign.

For more information, please contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at kmattison@wfbf.com or 866.355.7349.

Summit 2017
Save the Date!
March 10-11, 2017
Madison Marriott West, Middleton

WISCONSIN Ag Women's SUMMIT

#AWAWS17
WiAgWomensSummit.com