



Brown County Farm Bureau

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Rural Mutual Insurance Company
www.ruralins.com/farm-dividend

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

District YFA Green Bay Gamblers Game and Pizza Outing

This year's YFA Gamblers outing took place on February 18. About 120 YFA members had a blast at the game and enjoyed pizza after at the Green Bay Distillery.

The Green Bay Gamblers became the Green Bay Cheese complete with a cheese eating contest between periods.

Are you interested in more YFA events? For more information about what is happening in Brown County, please contact Brown County YFA chair Mandi Ramsburg at 301.639.2891.



Groups Needed to 'Herd' Cows at Lambeau Field

Brown County is hosting the 70th Alice in Dairyland Finals on **Saturday, May 13**, at Lambeau Field. Please encourage your group to attend as reasonably priced tickets are available at www.AliceInDairyland.com.

The Steering Committee is looking for two groups, who would manage a full-sized standing fiberglass cow. Creativity is encouraged to add some decoration around it; like a small pasture scene (e.g., white fence, milk can, some flowers, burlap on the floor, etc.). Come up with your own ideas to showcase your group. It's not every day you get to move cows around in Lambeau Field.



If interested, please email your ideas to KevinRess@yahoo.com soon as the herd size going to Lambeau Field is limited.

District Membership Incentives Announced

Do you know a friend who might be interested in joining Farm Bureau? Feel good about helping your organization grow and get a chance to win some great prizes, too.

Sign a voting member before **April 1** and receive a chance to win either a \$75 Fleet Farm gift card, a \$50 gas card or one of five, \$10 Culver's gift cards. One entry for every new member between now and **March 31**.

Also, for each voting member you sign up before **May 1**, you will receive an entry for the grand prize of \$300 towards Green Bay Packer tickets.





COUNTYnews

BROWN COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Brown County Farm Bureau Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol



Brown County Farm Bureau president Stan Kaczmarek met with Senator Robert Cowles' aide during Ag Day at the Capitol.



Members Ray Diederich and Kim VandenAvond met with Senator Dave Hansen during Ag Day at the Capitol.

Members of Brown County Farm Bureau attended Ag Day at the Capitol on March 8. They joined more than 500 members from around the state who were first updated on legislative issues facing agriculture currently. Issues ranged from high capacity well legislation, agricultural provisions in the budget for cost-sharing nonpoint source abatement projects and other land and water conservation activities performed by counties and producer-led watershed grants.

Transportation was another topic, talking to legislators about increased rural road funding. No tax or fee increases were offered to increase transportation fund revenues. The Governor is proposing \$500 million in bonding resulting in debt service payments approaching 25 percent on the transportation fund.

Industrial Hemp also came into conversation, LRB-1117 and LRB-

2273 (authored by Rep. Jesse Kremer/Sen. Patrick Testin) were introduced on March 10. The 2014 Farm Bill authorized states to set up pilot and research programs for growing, harvesting and marketing industrial hemp. Thirty-one states currently have some sort of authorized program. As a former leading producer, Wisconsin has a deep and rich history with hemp. Formerly we had about 10 processing plants in the state. The last one in the entire country, near Waupun, closed in 1958. The industrial hemp bill will once again allow the legal planting, harvesting and marketing of hemp via a DATCP licensing program.

The next Ag Day at the Capitol will be in January of 2018. If you haven't had a chance to attend, please consider joining us in 2018 to have your voices heard.

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Nearly 200 high school juniors from across Wisconsin attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids, February 17-18.

"Wisconsin Farm Bureau takes pride in hosting this event with the FFA to help develop our next generation of agriculture leaders," said Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President.

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids, FFA members attended workshops on post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media, agricultural advocacy and leadership.

Joining Holte as keynote speakers were Mark Holley, Sunrise 7 Meteorologist and Chris and Amy Blakeney, owners of Amazing Grace Family Farm.



High school juniors from Bay Port and Wrightstown High School attend Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids.

Rural Mutual Insurance Announces New Farm Dividend Program

Rural Mutual Insurance Company, premier insurance provider for Wisconsin families, businesses and farms, announces a new dividend program that enables the company to use its financial success to reward farm policyholders for their loyalty to Rural Mutual and commitment to Wisconsin agriculture.

The Rural Mutual Farm Dividend Program is the first of its kind in the area and will return up to 5% of farm policyholders' annual earned premium.

Starting in 2017, Rural Mutual farm policyholders may qualify for the Dividend Program if their farm policy has been in force with Rural Mutual for more than one year and is in effect at the end of the year for which the dividend is declared.

Dividend calculations will be based on the financial results of Rural Mutual Insurance Company and its farm product over a three-year period. If dividends are earned, a check will

be mailed or delivered by your Rural Mutual agent shortly after the farm policy renews in the subsequent calendar year. Dividends are not guaranteed and are authorized solely at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

To learn more about Rural Mutual Insurance Company's Farm Dividend Program, contact your local Rural Mutual agent or visit www.ruralins.com/farm-dividend.



District 6 YFA Plans Bus Tour



Join us for our second bus tour around the fantastic agricultural stops in District 6.

Join District 6 Farm Bureau members as we board the bus for three spectacular agricultural tours from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on **Friday, April 21**. The bus will leave from the park and ride on Highway 151 in Manitowoc.

First stop: Natural Beauty Greenhouse in Denmark. Natural Beauty is a socially and environmentally conscious greenhouse, leading the way to a greener and more colorful world. They grow a range of plants, including young plants for other greenhouses and finished plants for retailers, locally and across the country. Natural Beauty produces more than 100 million finished and young plants for customers throughout the U.S. **Second stop: Pagel's Ponderosa in Kewaunee.** Under the care of 100 employees, they milk 5,000 cows in two barns and 8,300 acres are cropped annually. They put up 100,000 tons of feed for silage. Pagel's bed with Bio Solids from their methane digester. Other comforts include foot wash, shower areas before milking and a special birthing area. Lunch will be provided.

Third stop: VonStiehl Winery in Algoma. The Schmiling brothers who grew up in von Stiehl Winery, now own and operate it. The older brother, Aric, uses the most modern equipment known to winemaking as he artfully crafts fine

wines. The younger brother Brad, likes romance and history and manages the business. The Civil War-era building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, features a tasting room, a 10,000-square foot production facility, three Civil-war era underground limestone tunnels and a spacious outdoor terrace with Lake Michigan views. Von Stiehl's 30 plus grape and fruit wine recipes use top quality ingredients from local fruit (Door County cherries), as well as West Coast-grown grapes (Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon). Tasting will conclude our tour.

Space is limited so reserve your space today by contacting or texting District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at 920.253.5303 or bsalm@wfbf.com.

Five reasons to Attend the Alice in Dairyland Finale

The Alice in Dairyland program has been promoting agriculture for nearly seven decades. Brown County will be hosting the selection of the 70th Alice in Dairyland on **Saturday, May 13**, at Lambeau Field.

Five reasons why you should attend the finale.

- 1. It is at Lambeau Field.** The selection of the next Alice in Dairyland will be a milestone celebration. Like Alice in Dairyland, Lambeau Field is legendary and iconic. What a great opportunity to experience Lambeau Field other than on a frigid game day.
- 2. The ticket price is a bargain.** Individual tickets to attend an event in the Lambeau Field atrium usually range from \$60 to \$120 per person. For only \$30 per person, those who purchase tickets get to enjoy a delicious dinner, watch the candidates give educational presentations, see the exciting announcement of the 70th Alice and celebrate with dessert and live bluegrass music afterwards.
- 3. The Alice in Dairyland: Wisconsin's Agricultural Ambassador exhibit.** The Neville Public Museum explores how Alice in Dairyland has played a significant role in Wisconsin agriculture over the past seven decades. Guests will discover how Alice, her selection, her duties and the agriculture industry have changed since the first Alice was crowned in 1948. The exhibit runs through early July 2017, and those who attend the finale receive a coupon with their ticket to attend the exhibit at a reduced cost.
- 4. Celebrate intelligent and strong women leaders of the Ag industry.** No longer a pageant queen, Alice is now the reflec-

tion of a booming agricultural industry that provides more than \$88 billion to Wisconsin's economy. Alice makes roughly 400 visits each year throughout Wisconsin educating and promoting this industry. Past Alice's have become doctors, lawyers, senior managers, marketing professionals and much more. Many Alice alumni are expected to be in attendance at the finale.

5. It has been 30 years since Brown County last hosted the finale. The last time Brown County hosted an Alice in Dairyland Finale was 1978. The State of Wisconsin selects a different county to host the finals each year. It might be a long time before it is hosted again in this mostly urban population.

For tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and to learn more about Alice in Dairyland, visit www.AliceInDairyland.com or Facebook at Alice In Dairyland Finals.



Agriculture Unites Us All

Ag in the Classroom Bus Tour Set

Teachers and volunteers are encouraged to spend **July 18-19** on the Ag in the Classroom summer bus tour.

This year, the tour will be in Jefferson County visiting agri-businesses, museums, farms and other venues. The bus tour allows participants to learn more about Wisconsin agriculture, career opportunities and educational lessons and resources about that industry.

Some of the venues include Jones Dairy Farm, Hoards Historical Museum, McKay Nursery, Berres Brothers, Jelli's Market and Mid-State Equipment. The tour will start early on Tuesday morning in Johnson Creek and will end late on Wednesday afternoon.

Teachers of all grade levels and subjects, home school parents, extension staff, non-traditional educators and volunteers are all welcome.



For the schedule and registration visit www.wisagclassroom.org.

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

Auto

- General Motors Discount

Health

- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
- Life Line (NEW)

Supplies and Products

- Case IH
- Caterpillar
- FS-GROWMARK Patronage
- Grainger
- Office Depot

Communication

- AgriVisor
- The Country Today

Insurance

- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
- Farm Bureau Financial Services

Travel

- AAA
- AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
- Budget (NEW)
- Choice Hotels International, Inc.
- Wyndham Hotel Group

Financial

- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program

Farm Bureau Bank

Protection

- \$500 Reward Protection Program
- Accidental Death Policy

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

Brown County to Select Fairest of the Fair, April 30

Each year, a male or female is selected to serve as the official host of the Brown County Fair, which is held **August 16-20** in De Pere.

The Brown County Fairest, along with the runner-up, will have a one-year term promoting the Brown County Fair opportunities, and educate others on the importance of agricultural to our daily lives. The Fairest also will have the opportunity to compete in January for the state position of Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs.

Meet the 2017 Fairest of the Fair candidates at the Brown County Fairest of the Fair Gala at 3 p.m. on **Sunday, April 30**, at The Marq in De Pere. Refreshments, raffle and a cash bar are available, along with door prizes.

Tickets for the Brown County Fairest of the Fair competition and gala are available for \$10 at the UW Extension Office, 1150 Bellevue Street, Green Bay or at the door.



For more information about the Brown County Fairest of the Fair, visit www.BrownCountyFair.com or 'like' Brown County Fair Wisconsin on Facebook.

DID YOU KNOW?

Agriculture provides 12 percent of county's jobs. Brown County agriculture provides 21,038 jobs, or about 12 percent, of the county's workforce of 180,690. Jobs include farm owners and managers, farm employees, veterinarians, crop and livestock consultants, feed, fuel and other crop input suppliers, farm machinery dealers, barn builders, agricultural lenders and other professionals, to name a few. It also includes those employed in food processing and other value-added industries. Every job in agriculture generates an additional 1.69 jobs in the county.



Upcoming Events

April

- 1 Ag in the Classroom essay's due
- 1 Ag in the Classroom matching grant forms due
- 21 YFA Ag Bus Tour

May

- 5 5x5 Membership Rally deadline

July

- 1 YFA Achievement and Excellence in Ag applications due
- 18-19 Ag in the Classroom Summer Bus Tour

Are You Farm Bureau Proud?

If you are Farm Bureau Proud, you want to share that excitement with your friends and neighbors.



- **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 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at 866.355.7345 or bsalm@wfbf.com.

Brown County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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'Like' Brown County Farm Bureau! Find us by searching Brown County Farm Bureau.

Attention Teachers

Calling all teachers. Ag in the Classroom has FREE resources available that you may find beneficial in your classrooms.



- Pre K-K students: "ABC's and 123's of Agriculture."
- Fourth grade students: "This Business Called Agriculture."
- Middle-high school students: "An Agricultural Career for You."

You can order any of these resources, and more, at wisagclassroom.org.

The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom program has a lot of free online and printed resources available, we hope you will be able to use them in your classroom.



For more information, please contact Darlene Arneson at darneson@wfbf.com or 608.828.7644.

