

Buffalo County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

March 4-5

Madison Marriott West, Middleton



Women from the Wisconsin agriculture community are encouraged to attend the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit presented by Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau and University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Agenda Highlights

Friday, March 4

- 9-10 a.m. Registration
- 10-10:30 a.m. AgVocate of the Year Award Presentation
- 10:30-11:30 a.m. Keynote Panel: Women In Ag: Understanding Where We've Been and Where We're Heading;
Moderator: Amy Pflugshaupt, Anchor and Reporter, NBC 15 Madison
- 1-4:30 Breakout Sessions
- 7:30-10 p.m. Casino Night

Saturday, March 5

- 6:30-7:30 a.m. Workout: Water aerobics or boxing and cardio
- 8:30-9 a.m. Meet the 2016 AgVocate of the Year
- 9-10 a.m. Breakout Sessions
- 10:15-11 a.m. Brunch
- 11 a.m. Closing Keynote by Jerry Apps: The Importance of Writing Your Own Story
- 12:15 p.m. Adjourn

For more information, visit wiagwomenssummit.com.

Buffalo County Farm Bureau Offers Calf Grant

By Taliah Danzinger

Buffalo County Farm Bureau announces the renewal of their calf grant. The calf grant is available to Buffalo and Pepin County FFA and 4-H members between the ages of 11 and 16. Recipients will be awarded \$300 towards the purchase of a dairy heifer calf that meets the requirements. The calf must be shown at the county fair and project records must be kept through the FFA or 4-H program.

Recipients must report on the progress of the calf at the annual Buffalo County Farm Bureau meeting both the year of receiving the grant and the year that the animal comes into milk. The calf must be AI sired and the dam must be on a DHI testing program.

If you are interested in applying for the grant or want to receive grant materials, please contact Taliah Danzinger at 608.332.3889 or taliahdanzinger@gmail.com. Grant applications must be received by **March 11**.

Picture This Photos Wanted



Do you have a great photo that you have taken around your farm or somewhere in the county? We want to see them!

Submit your photos to Lynn Siekmann at lsiekmann@wfbf.com or post it on social media using #WFBFPictureThis. Your photo could be featured in the next edition of the Buffalo County Farm Bureau newsletter...or maybe even the *Rural Route!*



COUNTYnews

BUFFALO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Farm Bureau Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference



Buffalo County Farm Bureau members talked during one of the dinners at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference.



Buffalo County members included: (L-R) President Joe Bragger, directors Taliah Danzinger, Pat Danzinger, Chris Ellis and Loren Wolfe.



Dustin and Ashley Ellis (center) met with Trempealeau County members Brian and Sara Maliszewski.



Dustin and Ashley Ellis were recognized as the Buffalo County Achievement Award winners.



Loren Wolfe received the Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award with his wife Ruth pictured with WFBF President Jim Holte.



Taliah Danzinger was recognized for being the Excellence in Ag award winner in Buffalo County.

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Rosli Bragger (right) represented Buffalo County in the Discussion Meet.



Buffalo County YFA members participated in the trivia contest.



Kyle Danzinger (right) represented Buffalo County Farm Bureau in the Discussion Meet.

Buffalo County Farm Bureau Is on Facebook By Taliah Danzinger

New for Buffalo County Farm Bureau is our Facebook page!

To receive updates on the latest activities and opportunities and connect with other Buffalo County Farm Bureau members, visit www.facebook.com/buffalocountyfarmbureau.

If you have ideas for content for our page, please email Steve Boe at sboe@wfbf.com or Taliah Danzinger at taliahdanzinger@gmail.com. We look forward to connecting with you!

Be sure to 'like' us!



District Board Report



I recently had a conversation with a Farm Bureau member who posed the question; why do we sell milk with the labels 1% fat, 2% fat, skim and whole? The member went on to say, "Who else sells their product advertising on the label something people have been taught to avoid, even when you purchase ground beef it is labeled 70% lean not 30% fat." Would anyone buy beef if it were labeled 30% fat?

So I experimented. I attended a meeting at our school and was working on an issue with an accountant from a company that does work with school districts in Wisconsin when I noticed a health bar. You know the ones I am talking about (all natural/non GMO, gluten free; the fastest growing market in the food industry, I mean even beer is going gluten free for crying out loud), low glycemic, good source of fiber (my cows or horse might be interested) very low sodium, dairy free (God help us), cholesterol free, no soy, no trans fats, no sulphur dioxide, no hydrogenated oils. Can this product be any more complete? They covered all of the market fads, I thought; but wait there is more. 'Ingredients you can see and pronounce,' when I looked at the ingredient list I saw it contained, to my horror, D-alpha tocopheryl acetate and ascorbic acid. I don't know about you, but I struggle with the pronunciation.

Back to the aforementioned lady with the health bar; I asked

her if she drank milk, she said yes that she often drinks milk. "Skim" I asked? To which she replied yes because she was concerned about ingesting too much fat. I was delighted with the response, so I queried how you would feel about 98 or 99% fat free, after all, whole milk is for sure 96 to 96.5% fat free? She was immediately excited and asked me if this was available and where? I assured her I was working on getting this new product to market.

I have been doing my own research buying up milk and health bars (health bars that I will never eat, they scare me) so that I can compare labels and advertising. I have noticed some interesting trends. Most of the bars have somewhat of a nature 'outdoorsy' label and will not only make me a better person (good luck), they will improve the environment and society with their ethical processes. Most of them put considerable effort into describing what they are not and of course they always contain whole grains. (Remember whole milk?) On one box it states; 'contains no sugar alcohols.' I wasn't interested but apparently this is critical information to some consumer somewhere. Every one of the health bars that I have read the label on contained more fat per serving than a serving of milk, yet consumers gobble them up in search of a better life while we restrict the serving of extra milk in our schools. I recently turned off the milk dispenser in our school after listening to it running empty of milk, humming away for months in not so silent protest to the new rules that no longer make it possible to offer more than an eight-ounce serving to students.

I once bought several pallets of sugar in 50 pound bags and even they stated on the bag that sugar contained 0% fat with a heart healthy symbol. With such a public aversion to things fat, why do we continue the nonsense, why do we not use the same tactics our competitors use and start to market this new healthy 95 to 99% fat free milk? (Side note: on one jug of milk it states '2% fat reduced: 37% less fat than regular milk,' my god how much is there in regular milk? This label is not helping!)

I recently started to discuss this with leaders in agriculture and the dairy industry and they indicate that there is a rule they know about somewhere but can't find it for me. A rule somewhere? Does this sound like a reason to just roll over and take it? Folks, we have been able to get the powers that be to recognize the importance of skid steers to our farms and the necessity of safety training for our youth younger than 18 even though the former interpretation of the RULES said we could not. Farm Bureau members spoke and our excellent staff got it changed. Maybe we need to step up and change the rule on how we label milk?

Next time you have a glass of wholesome milk, (one ingredient, pronounceable) think of me and please share your thoughts as I would like to keep the discussion going.

As always, "enough is too much."

Joe Bragger
WFBF District 4 Director

Loren Wolfe Receives Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award



Loren and Ruth Wolfe pictured with Jim Holte after Loren was recognized for Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau award during the organization's 96th Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells on December 6. Wolfe, a retired dairy farmer from rural Cochrane, has provided many years of service, exceptional leadership and support to Farm Bureau's efforts.

Wolfe has been an active member of Farm Bureau for 47 years and has served in key leadership roles at county and state levels. Wolfe was elected to the Buffalo County Farm Bureau board of directors during turbulent financial times and served as a director and was president for six years.

"It was with Loren's leadership and guidance that the Buffalo County Farm Bureau malt and shake stand was started," Joe Bragger, Buffalo County Farm Bureau President and District 4 Board Director said. "Because of this fundraiser, the Buffalo County Farm Bureau is financially stable. It allowed the county Farm Bureau to invest in programs and activities."

Wolfe earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural education and served for two years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was hired as a teacher at Brookwood High School and in 1968, decided to return to his family's farm where they developed

Buffalo County's Loren Wolfe received the highest award that the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation bestows upon its members.

Wolfe was presented the

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau award during the organization's 96th Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells on December 6. Wolfe, a retired dairy farmer from rural Cochrane, has provided many years of service, exceptional leadership and support to Farm Bureau's efforts.

a 100-cow registered Holstein herd. In 1997, the family entered a partnership with John and Nettie Rosenow to create Rosenholm-Wolfe Dairy, LLP. In 2014, the Wolfes sold their portion of the partnership back to John and Nettie.

Wolfe has the distinction of being the first chair of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Volunteers for Agriculture political action committee after it was formed and served on that committee for six years. He also served on the WFBF Dairy Committee.

Wolfe was a recipient of the 1972 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Outstanding Young Farmer award. He was recognized as Wisconsin Conservation Farmer of the Year, Wisconsin Master Agriculturist, UW-River Falls Distinguished Agriculturist, School District of Arcadia Distinguished Alumni Award and Buffalo County Farm Family of the Year.

As a community leader, Wolfe served on the Arcadia School Board as member, president and now as vice president; as a first responder and firefighter; as leader of the Golden Hornets 4-H Club and on the Buffalo County Fair Board.

He is an active member of the Waumandee Area Lions Club and St. Boniface Parish, where he served as church council president and on the St. Boniface School Board. Wolfe also serves on the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board.

Wolfe and his wife, Ruth, have two adult sons, Craig and Brad, who also live in Cochrane.

"For Loren's entire life he has given himself to his family, community, country, agriculture and in particular, Farm Bureau," added Bragger. "It is because of his selfless dedication to others that the Buffalo County Farm Bureau is extremely proud to recognize his distinguished service to Farm Bureau."

Buffalo County Farm Bureau YFA Report

As we look back on another year, we think about the great things that we have accomplished as a Young Farmer and Agriculturalist (YFA) committee.

We started with a pizza and card party at Buzz's in Mondovi. This event is a great way to get to know others in the area because we invite members and non-members.

One new event was a family night on the farm, which was held at Suncrest Gardens outside of Waumandee. This event was partnered with the Ag Promotions Committee. Farm Bureau members could enjoy pizza, s'mores and yard games. We don't just have fun and games, but also volunteered our time at the milkshake stand at the Buffalo County Fair.

Rosli Bragger and Kyle Danzinger competed at in the Discussion Meet at the YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells. Dustin Ellis competed in the Achievement Award and Taliah Danzinger competed in the Excellence in Agriculture Award.

Buffalo County young farmers and agriculturists who attended the YFA Conference included Noah and Celsey Weiss, Taliah and Kyle Danzinger, Dustin and Ashley Ellis, Rosli Bragger and Tessa Bragger. The WFBF Annual Meeting is a great place to network and socialize with young farmers from Wisconsin, listen to various speakers and have a fun, too.

Looking forward to the new year, we have more events that will bring young farmers together and ways to promote agriculture. During the spring, we will have a pizza and card party. Details and location will be available later.

We want to thank you for participating in the YFA events and please invite other young farmers and agriculturists to join us.

Dustin and Ashley Ellis
Buffalo County YFA Chairs

President's Report

What an extraordinary year for Buffalo County Farm Bureau and its membership.

I recently viewed my first *Star Wars* movie, which is one of the top money making movies of all time and it also broke all sort of records. Well, Buffalo County Farm Bureau is making its own mark in the world.

At the WFBF Annual Meeting, Loren and Ruth Wolfe were recognized with the most prestigious award given to a Farm Bureau member. They received the award during the Sunday awards program and Loren gave an inspiring talk about his experiences. Congratulations Loren and Ruth.

Jan and Eric Schaffner and Dustin and Ashley Ellis hosted a well-attended Fun at the Farm. This event was recognized as one of the top four programs put on by a county Farm Bureau. As a result, they received \$500 to be put back in further programs as well as having a booth at the WFBF Annual Meeting trade show.

Jan Schaffner serves as our Ag Promotions chair, Dustin and Ashley Ellis serve as the Buffalo County Young Farmer and Agriculturist chairs. They were the 2015 county Achievement Award winners and represented the county at the state competition.

Kyle Danzinger and Rosli Bragger represented Buffalo County in the state Discussion Meet. They represented the county well and hopefully they will continue to compete in the future.

Board member Taliah Danzinger is taking on a year-long com-

mitment to leadership development and will be attending the WFBF leadership Institute. We are fortunate to have someone from our county attend this nationally recognized program because I'm sure it will benefit not only Taliah but our organization as well.

Taliah also launched the Buffalo County Farm Bureau Facebook page so be sure to 'like' it. The new Facebook page will be a valuable tool in spreading the word about our accomplishments as well as a way to get valuable feedback from our members.

I would be amiss if I didn't relay an example of how the policy development process in our organization works. During the Buffalo County annual meeting, board member Doug Olson proposed a resolution dealing with compensation to individuals doing roadside maintenance and cleanup. This resolution passed at our county level, was accepted by the Policy Development Committee and was adopted into our Policy Book by the delegates at the 2015 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

This is a perfect example of the grassroots process that provides solid policy so that our members and governmental relations staff can take to the legislature.

I want to thank you for your dedication and commitment to agriculture.

"May the Force be with you"

Joe Bragger
Buffalo County Farm Bureau President

Around the County with Ag in the Classroom By Jan Schaffner



This fall was a productive season for harvesting for the farmers and yet, here at Ag in the Classroom (AITC), we continue our planting season. We, like the farmers, never take a break. There is

always something more to do.

We distributed books to local schools for our annual spring essay contest. This year, the book is titled *Sugarbush Spring* and is focused on maple syrup. It gets the information of making syrup into the hands of fourth and fifth grade students.

Importantly for teachers, AITC seeks to work within existing curricula and state standards to provide basic information on our nation's largest industry, agriculture. This year's focus on maple syrup is another prime example of teaching the children where their food comes from.

We also had a great privilege to attend the WFBF Annual Meeting and promote Buffalo County's YFA and Ag Promotions event that was held last July. We were selected, along with eight other counties, to receive the County Activities of Excellence 2015. What an awesome experience!

We showcased the event and discussed what we did to bring our county together. It was a fabulous time. If you have not experienced the WFBF Annual Meeting, I would definitely

make it a priority to attend. This was our first time attending with the Counties of Excellence Award and we can't wait to plan next year's event.

In December, we also were invited to participate in C-FC fourth grade classroom. We played Christmas tree math and attempted to make Wisconsin agriculture ornaments.

When I say attempted, the clay didn't form as well as anticipated and the animals didn't turn out. Nevertheless, the children were very polite and said thank you. Thank you to Jan Blomsness and Beth Stryeski for inviting us into their classrooms.



Next up, by **April 1** we will gather the essays and judge entries to decide a county winner. Also, this spring, we will be making butter with some children.

If you are an educator and reading this, please don't hesitate to contact me at 608.687.3044 or jan.schaffner@outlook.com. I'm excited to bring some agriculture fun to your classroom, too.

Thank you for your support to continue the philosophy of AITC. The

goal of this program is to help students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies.

Blessings for another great year from your Ag Promotion Committee!

Buffalo County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Joe Bragger	715.530.0466
Vice President, Chris Ellis	608.863.0007
Secretary/Treasurer, Taliah Danzinger	608.332.3889
Ag Promotions Chair, Jan Schaffner	608.687.3044
YFA Chair, Dustin Ellis	608.797.0380

Director, Patrick Danzinger	715.495.0450
Director, Mark Denk	715.577.3036
Director, LeeRoy Fernholz	608.863.1503
Director, Sharon Fernholz	608.863.1503
Director, Julie Lindstrom	715.495.2679
Director, Ray Liska	608.606.2735
Director, Doug Olson	715.495.7543
Director, Charles Rippley	608.626.3511
Director, Merlin Sutter	608.687.6021
Director, Joseph Wantoch	608.687.6062
Director, Loren Wolfe	715.495.1719

Buffalo County Farm Bureau	888.644.8315
WFBF Board Director, Joe Bragger	715.530.0466
District 4 Women's Chair, Darby Sampson	715.299.1409
District 4 YFA Chair, Derek Husmoen	608.863.0105
District 4 Coordinator, Steve Boe	866.355.7344
RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax	715.514.4477

Farm Bureau Looking for Your Input

Buffalo County Farm Bureau wants your input concerning the availability of the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) for farmers and landowners.



We have developed a survey that will explain the FPP and some of the program requirements. The survey address is on the Buffalo County UW-Extension website <http://buffalo.uwex.edu> or https://uwex.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_esWvFYjmdFQb3Ct. The survey takes 10 to 15 minutes.

Thank you and if you have questions regarding the survey, please contact Carl Duley at carl.duley@ces.uwex.edu or 608.685.6256. If you do not have access to the web, we can mail a limited number of surveys.

Wanted: Membership Chair

Buffalo County Farm Bureau is looking for a unique individual who enjoys visiting with people, has a strong love for agriculture and wants to promote Farm Bureau.



The membership chair position is open to county Farm Bureau members and while it is not a paid position, there are membership incentive programs and other opportunities to grow within the organization.

Most importantly, the position provides a opportunity to network with and help other board members, to promote agriculture through the mission of Farm Bureau, 'Lead the farm and rural community through legislative representation, education, public relations, leadership development and providing services and benefits to members.'

If you are interested in joining our team of leaders, please contact any board member or Joe Bragger at 715.985.2314, 715.530.0466 or braggfam@trivest.net.