

# Buffalo County Farm Bureau

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Rural Mutual Agents in Buffalo County:

**Steven Berger**  
(715) 926-3871

**Ken Truax -**  
District Manager

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### 'All About Beef' App Has New Games



The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture released a new educational app, 'All About Beef,' funded in part by the Beef Checkoff.

App versions of "The Steaks are High" and "Grocery Grab" are STEM-based games funded by the Beef Checkoff Program and geared toward students in grades third through fifth. In addition to teaching nutrition and environmental facts, the app also feature kid-friendly beef recipes.

The My American Farm games, including "The Steaks are High" and "Grocery Grab" are available on the iTunes store for iPhone and iPad, at Google Play for Android devices, on Amazon for the Kindle Fire and on [www.MyAmericanFarm.org](http://www.MyAmericanFarm.org).

The Beef Checkoff Program funded development of the game and supporting resources. The Beef Checkoff Program was established as part of the 1985 farm bill and assesses \$1 per head on the sale of live domestic and imported cattle, in addition to a comparable assessment on imported beef and beef products.

The My American Farm educational resource is a project of the Foundation and the site and resources are made possible through the generous support of title sponsor, DuPont Pioneer.

For more information and My American Farm resources, please visit [www.MyAmericanFarm.org](http://www.MyAmericanFarm.org).

### Caterpillar, Inc., Is a New Wisconsin Farm Bureau Member Benefit

Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Caterpillar, Inc., announced a new partnership that will provide members up to \$2,000 in purchase incentives on Cat machines. In addition, Caterpillar plans to support Farm Bureau programs in 2016 and coordinate with Farm Bureau on other efforts.

"Our extensive product line, with more than 300 Cat machines, reflects our commitment to the ongoing success of American agriculture and rural businesses," Dustin Johansen, Caterpillar Agriculture Industry Manager, said. "We're proud to partner with Wisconsin Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation and help members get their jobs done with the highest quality, best value equipment, attachments and integrated solutions in the industry."

Eligible equipment includes Cat skid steer loaders, compact and multi-terrain loaders, wheel loaders, telehandlers, backhoe loaders, hydraulic excavators and track-type tractors. A range of incentives are offered:

- Small Wheel Loaders: \$2,000
- Compact Wheel Loaders: \$1,000
- Small Dozers: \$1,000
- Backhoe Loaders: \$500-\$1,000
- Compact Track Loaders: \$500-\$1,000
- Multi Terrain Loaders: \$500-\$1,000
- Skid Steer Loaders: \$500-\$1,000
- Telehandlers: \$500 - \$1,000
- Mini Hydraulic Excavators: \$250-\$500

"Everyone at Wisconsin Farm Bureau is excited about this new member benefits offering," said Jim Holte, WFBF Presi-

dent. "Caterpillar and agriculture have a shared history that goes back more than century and our new partnership will make it easier for our members to improve productivity and efficiency to maintain profit margins."

In addition to providing reliable, fuel-efficient equipment that is more economical for farmers and rural business people to own and operate, Caterpillar also is committed to the safety of operators and ongoing innovation in design and engineering.

The Farm Bureau member benefit discount on Cat machines can be combined with any retail discounts, promotions, rebates or offers available through Caterpillar or its dealers, with the exception of other membership purchase incentives.

All WFBF members are eligible. Discounts cannot be applied to past purchases. Members must provide a valid member verification certificate to the Cat dealer at the time of purchase to receive the discount. Certificates may be obtained at [www.fbadvantage.com/cat](http://www.fbadvantage.com/cat).

For more information, please contact 800.261.3276.





# COUNTYnews

BUFFALO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Fun at the Farm is a Huge Success! By Jan Schaffner

On July 18, Buffalo County Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) and Ag Promotion Committees successfully held their first Fun on the Farm event at Suncrest Gardens in Cochrane. It was a satisfying evening to celebrate Farm Bureau and its outreach.

Guests were treated to delicious wood-fired pizza made from the freshest vegetables while relaxing in a gorgeous valley setting for this farm-to-plate event.

The diverse array of pizzas was perfect for those who wanted to try something different other than their ordinary palate. As the sun set, a campfire was started and everyone laughed and enjoyed S'mores.

Activities were available that young and young-at-heart could test their agricultural knowledge, play a yard game or simply sit and take in the tranquil scenery.

Beyond the picture-perfect setting and the exquisite pizza, there was a purpose for the event. The YFA and Ag Promotion committees wanted to reach out to our members and non-members and help them better understand what we accomplish within our committees.

Accomplishments include going into classrooms and teaching students about agriculture, food and about the farmers who grow it.

Also, we inform the public through parades, information booths and meetings. We are trying to create a network of young agriculturist to build camaraderie and to serve as a resource for each other.

"It was a beautiful night," commented Jan Schaffner, Ag Promotions chair. "Having the opportunity to get our members together for a casual evening of fun and fellowship was superb."

Many attendees also commented how grateful they were for the event and the delicious pizza.

"This better be an annual event," stated one member.

Suncrest Gardens Farm was founded in 2003. The 16-acre family farm is nestled among the rolling bluffs of west-central Wisconsin near the Mississippi River.

More than two acres of vegetables and berries are cultivated along with three unheated hoop houses and a greenhouse to help extend the seasons.

Suncrest Gardens strives to be a sustainable farming business that brings community together around the subject of food, enriching the body and soul with naturally grown vegetables and community-oriented dining experiences on the farm.



Buffalo County YFA Chair Dustin Ellis talked with past District 4 YFA Representative Sara and Brian Maliszewski and current District 4 YFA Chair Derek Husmoen.



District 4 Director and Buffalo County Farm Bureau President Joe Bragger visited with Buffalo County Farm Bureau members.



Buffalo County Farm Bureau board directors LeeRoy and Sharon Fernholz visited with Farm Bureau members.



Eric and Jan Schaffner chatted with Sara Maliszewski.



A great group of Farm Bureau members gathered to eat fantastic pizza and have great discussion.



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## President's Report



I want to invite all Buffalo County Farm Bureau Members to our, Buffalo County Farm Bureau annual meeting at 7 p.m. on **Thursday, October 8**, at the American Legion Hall, Highway B, in Gilmanton.

I am pleased to announce that this year's guest speaker will be Brian Winnekins, president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters, and owner of Reel Country AM 1430 in Durand.

Also, attending will be Wisconsin Farm Bureau Chief Administrative Officer Dale Beaty. Beaty previously served as Director of Leadership and Training and took over the helm at Farm Bureau. He will share some thoughts and be available for questions throughout the evening.

Farm Bureau is recognized as the largest general farm organization in Buffalo County and Wisconsin; American Farm Bureau is recognized as one of the top lobbying organizations in the United States and is known as the go-to resource on agricultural issues.

Buffalo County Farm Bureau members have the ability to propose and vote on resolutions that, if passed, will be championed by county Farm Bureau delegates at the WFBF annual meeting in December.

Please read the list of proposed resolutions in this newsletter and if you have an important issue that needs to be addressed, please bring it to the Buffalo County Farm Bureau annual meeting

for discussion. Resolutions will be accepted from the floor.

Of particular importance is a proposed by-laws change that will allow for one director from each of our townships plus six at-large directors. Seventeen townships plus six at-large positions allow for a possible board of 25 members, including the Promotion and Education, and Young Farmer and Agriculturist chairs are counted.

Understanding that, currently and for some time, several townships have gone unrepresented and that there is considerable interest from farmers in other townships and that probably more important than just having numbers is the contribution and commitment to agriculture that potential board members would possess.

The Buffalo County Farm Bureau board of directors is recommending a change with a two-thirds majority vote at the annual meeting and will allow for up to 21 at-large board members.

I look forward to seeing you at this year's Buffalo County Farm Bureau annual meeting and if you have any issues you would like to discuss or have an interest in becoming more involved in an organization that truly represents farmers of all sizes and all types please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our dedicated board members. Farm Bureau not only represents farmers, Farm Bureau develops leaders.

Thank you,

**Joe Bragger**  
Buffalo County Farm Bureau President

## County Government in Action By Julie Lindstrom

Farming, conservation and land use are topics of discussion at Farm Bureau meetings, with Farm Bureau members and Buffalo County residents in general.

The County Conservation, UW-Extension and Zoning Committees and Departments tackle many of the day to day activities that revolve around conservation and land use in Buffalo County as well as education components of conservation, farming and land use.

Currently, the Conservation Committee/Department is in the process of updating the County Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) plan. This plan was approved in 1980 and there have been no updates to the plan since that time.

Another plan that is being updated at this time is the Buffalo County Outdoor Recreation Plan. The Conservation Committee/Department, with assistance from Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission (MRRPC) is taking a lead role in updating this plan.

The Outdoor Recreation Plan can be used as a tool when seeking grant funds for county activities that are addressed in the plan or other county recreation activities. The Outdoor Recreation Plan has not been updated since 2006.

Two federal offices in the county that play a role in administering conservation and farming programs is the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Each of these agencies report regularly at Conservation Committee meetings.

The FSA crop reporting deadline date was July 15. A general CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) sign-up will take place in December, with the hope of capturing some 65 CRP contracts expired on September 30. These contracts are eligible for a one-year extension.

Buffalo County has taken pride in the Conservation Partners [Wisconsin DNR (Forestry, Fisheries, Wildlife, Ecologist, Warden), UW-Extension, County Land Conservation-Resource Management, Federal Natural Resources Conservation Service

(NRCS) and FSA] staff in Buffalo County are able to work closely.

What makes it unique in Buffalo County is that all of these offices are located on the fourth floor of the County Courthouse. A one-stop-shop for all your farming and conservation program needs.

Buffalo County Conservation-Resource Management Department, UW-Extension, Pepin and Trempealeau Counties and various other entities are working on a Regional Conservation Planning Program (RCPP) proposal for Bluff Prairie Restoration work.

RCPP is a connecting planning partnership with the NRCS to help with the environmental restoration and habitat work throughout the county.

The Zoning Department/Committee regulate land use in the county. Just recently, through the Zoning Committee/Department, the county signed a contract with MRRPC to complete a comprehensive revision of the County Zoning Ordinance. The revision started this summer by meeting with each of the towns. The revision process will go into and possibly beyond 2016.

The Zoning Ordinance revision was a priority task that was identified in the County Comprehensive Land Use Plan that was approved by the County Board of Supervisors in December 2013.

The Buffalo County Board of Supervisors meet the third Monday each month, typically at 7 p.m. with the exception of the months of April and October when they meet at 9 a.m. Dates and times are subject to change. There are other county committees that meet on a regular basis.

County committee information in this article was taken from minutes that are posted on the Buffalo County website at [www.co.buffalo.wi.us](http://www.co.buffalo.wi.us).

Please take time to check out the new county website and review the minutes in their entirety from these committees and other county committees. Also take time to check out the "Notification" link on the bottom of the home page of the county website. Through this email notification you will know when agendas and minutes are posted on the website from the committees.

## Resolutions To Be Considered

Make sure to attend the Buffalo County Farm Bureau annual meeting to discuss support for the following resolutions. For or against, we would like to hear from you.

1. Agriculture products should not be withheld from trading with other countries in dealing with foreign affairs issues.
2. To have those who call in emergency calls to be required to stay near the scene until emergency personnel arrive.
3. Allow local towns and counties to exempt roads and bridges from their levy restrictions.
4. To classify skid steers as agriculture as well as construction. To have training and safety programs/certification for youth similar to ATV and tractor safety.
5. To change the classification of industrial/construction equipment to agricultural equipment when used for agricultural purposes.
6. We support farmer-led water quality efforts, provided that farmers are involved in developing the framework that measures/quantifies that efforts are truly farmer-led.
7. Support developing farmer networks to educate and promote conservation practices.
8. Support phosphorous trading scenarios pending a risk assessment and implementation plan for installing and maintaining management practices that complete the farmer's obligation to the phosphorous trading scenario.
9. No more expansion of the school voucher systems.
10. The term milk should not be used to describe food products derived from plants.

### Federal

1. Update farms with low or no base acres that were under other ownership or management to current owners/management average farm base acres.
2. The term milk should not be used to describe food products derived from plants.
3. Agriculture products would not be withheld from trading with other countries in dealing with foreign affair issues.

## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

### Auto

- General Motors Discount

### Health

- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
- Stroke Detection Plus

### Supplies and Products

- Caterpillar (NEW)
- Case IH
- FS-GROWMARK Patronage
- Grainger
- Polaris
- Office Depot

### Communication

- AgriVisor
- The Country Today

### Insurance

- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
- Farm Bureau Financial Services

### Travel

- AAA
- AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
- 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](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).

## Buffalo County Farm Bureau Supports County Youth

Submitted by **Loren Wolfe**

The Buffalo County Farm Bureau had the malt and milk shake stand at the Arcadia Broiler Days and Buffalo County Fair.

At Arcadia we sold 1,700 malts and shakes comprised of 240 pails of ice cream and 50 gallons of milk; profit \$2,774.

At the Buffalo County Fair we served 4,450 malts and shakes using 612 pails of ice cream and 168 gallons of milk; profit \$7,969.

We make about 60% profit with gross sales of \$18,364 for a total net of \$10,743.00. Special thanks to Ron Bauer for refurbishing the stand at the county fair.

What do we do with this money, you may ask? We have a number of activities that we fund including the following:

1. Sponsored two \$500 ag-related scholarships this year.
2. Purchased two animals during the meat animal sale at the

county fair at a cost of \$2,000. The Farm Bureau bid on 21 animals.

3. Donated \$500 to the Buffalo County Fair Association for capital building improvements.
4. Sponsored seven students to the FFA Farm Forum.
5. Sponsored the 4-H Key Award.
6. Funded Farm Bureau YFA activities.
7. Fund and support other county agricultural activities.

All of these activities would not be possible without the more than 100 volunteers who work in the stands. To show our appreciation, we invite you to the Buffalo County Farm Bureau annual meeting (at no cost to you) at 7 p.m. on **Thursday, October 8** at the American Legion Hall in Gilmanton. Thank you for your help.

### Food Stand co-chairs

Joe and LaVae Wantoch  
Loren and Ruth Wolfe

## Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Offers Teacher Mini-Grants

Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program is offering grants up to \$100 to pre-school through high school teachers, in a public or private school system, to fund projects that promote agricultural literacy in the classroom. Grants can be used for innovative lessons, activities, resources, presentations, school fairs and other creative ideas and projects should focus on integrating agriculture into a variety of areas.

A committee will review all funding requests that are properly completed and postmarked by the October 15 deadline.

Applications is available from [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org) under the quick links section. Four signed copies of the application must be submitted. Items considered when evaluating the applications include quality and uniqueness of the agricultural lesson, activity or project, integration of agriculture into a variety of curriculum areas, alignment with educational standards, assessment methods used to evaluate student's knowledge and

quality of application.

The proposed project must be targeted to grades pre-K through 12 and should enhance student knowledge of the contribution made by agriculture.

Projects that use funds toward an ongoing, sustainable education effort will receive preference over those that involve a one-time program. Proposed projects or events designed to reach large groups of students will be given preference, as will those that involve innovative approaches to promoting agricultural literacy.



## Consider Donating to the WFBF Silent Auction

Donations are being accepted for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Silent Auction held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, December 5-7, at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

The money raised during this event is used for ag literacy efforts through Ag in the Classroom and activities of our Young Farmer and Agriculturist, Women's and Leadership Institute programs.

For donation forms, visit [wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/silentauktion](http://wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/silentauktion).



## Buffalo County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Joe Bragger	715.530.0466
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Secretary/Treasurer, Charles Rippley	608.626.3511
Ag Promotions Chair, Jan Schaffner	608.687.3044
YFA Chair, Dustin Ellis	608.797.0380
Membership Chair, Merlin Sutter	608.687.6021

Director, Patrick Danzinger	715.495.0450
Director, Taliah Danzinger	608.332.3889
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, 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

## Buffalo County Farm Bureau Celebrates July Beef Month

Buffalo County Farm Bureau participated in two events in July to help promote July is Beef Month in collaboration with the Wisconsin Beef Council.



The week of July 20, Ag Promotions chair Jan

Schaffner was at Waumandee Country Market and Mondovi Market and provided beef samples for customers.

At the Waumandee Country Market, Farm Bureau provided more than 40 free lunches that included a shredded beef sandwich, chips and a pop.

At the Mondovi Market, more than 65 shoppers enjoyed barbecue-flavored sliced roast beef served on a bun.

The Ag Promotions committee is an active group in Farm Bureau who plan and carry out projects and activities to educate youth and consumers about agriculture and promote positive messages about farming, food safety, animal welfare and other agricultural topics appropriate for adult and youth audiences.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau is proud to represent all farms in the state regardless of their size, commodity or method of production.

The Wisconsin Beef Council is a producer-funded, producer-directed organization dedicated to building demand for beef and veal through promotion, consumer education and research.

The Wisconsin Beef Council works with educators, dietitians, home economists, restaurateurs, meat managers, nurses, physician assistants and other leaders to strengthen beef's position in the marketplace and to maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets and uses for beef products.